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TASE drops a further 2 percent Dow Jones stabilizes after morning plunge

THE capital gains tax may have been voted in only yesterday, but investors on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange have been casting their ballots all month.

The TASE registered an additional 2 percent drop yesterday. The only bright note seemed to be that overall turnover, which had been down all week at between NIS 100 million and NIS 120m., closed at NIS 155m.

The Two Sided index dropped 1.65% to 164.95, and the Maof dropped 1.96% to 169.21.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones average rebounded from its 92 point plunge on Tuesday, but still fell 3.36 points.

The capital gains tax was seen by local traders as the underlying cause for the lackluster situation,

with no buyers and few sellers. Mutual fund investors continued to drop out of the market.

The morning opened with the Meretz trading on excess supply of NIS 48m. and demand of NIS 1m. After having reached new lows on Tuesday, the Karam stood shakily at midday on excess supply of NIS 56m.

The sharp drop experienced by the Dow Jones, declines on the European and Far East markets, and a fall in Israeli shares traded abroad were cited as contributing factors. Political uncertainty, as hopes pinned on Syria joining in the peace process gave way to disappointment, was also mentioned.

Since the beginning of the week, rumors have circulated that Maof speculators were driving the market down, but Shalom Har-Oz, of Storm Capital Markets, insisted they were not true.

"The market is weak, even sick," he stated. "There is a feeling no one is supporting the market, and deposits in mutual funds have been withdrawn."

There were few buyers or sellers on the Two-Sided market, and institutional investors were nowhere in sight. No one was willing to say where their point of reentry would be, but when the Maof index fell below 170, turnover began to escalate, indicating this might have been the

moment.

The bond market also slipped, with excess supply of NIS 193m. on demand of NIS 156m., and it was speculated that mutual fund investors might be trying to maintain a certain level of liquidity before possible redemptions.

Long-term investors saw the activity of the past few days as part of the ongoing downward trend characteristic of a bear market, in which bad news carries great weight, while good news has no influence.

"The Treasury is calling the macro situation positive," said one broker. "All I can say is, if the daily reports we are receiving are positive, I don't know what they think negative is."

Full report, Page 9

Knesset votes capital gains tax into law

Likud pledges to abolish tax if elected

THE Knesset, by a vote of 45-30 yesterday, approved the capital gains tax bill with no changes, following an all-night session and despite a flood of phone calls opposing it.

The bill allows investors to choose between two taxation options - a 20 percent tax with offsets of losses and a 10% tax without offsetting. Profits from the sale of shares in mutual funds will be taxed at a 15%, while bonds, pension and provident funds, and *Kranot Hishulim* will be tax-exempt.

During the vote on the bill itself, only Hanan Porat (NRP) broke ranks to vote for the tax; Sallah Tarif (Labor), who opposed the bill, decided to abstain, as did Michael Eitan (Likud), who has long advocated such a tax. Shas and Yit'ud voted for the bill; United Torah Judaism abstained.

Afterwards, the Likud called for a vote of no-confidence because of the tax. Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu also promised that if the Likud won the next election, it would repeal the tax.

"This is a great day for the Israeli public," said Finance Minister Avraham Shohat. "This is the day on which we entered the family of nations, because all developed countries tax both salaries and capital gains."

The debate on the bill began unexpectedly at 9:15 Tuesday night, when it was added to the agenda without warning. It lasted for 18 hours, as five Likud MKs - Dan Tichon, Ariel Weinstein, Sil-

van Shalom, Ya'acov Shamai, and Ron Nahman - conducted a filibuster throughout the night. The sole coalition MK present all night, Eli Goldschmidt (Labor), contributed to the marathon nature of the debate by insisting on responding to each Likud speech at equal length, after Finance Committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) hastily appointed him deputy chairman to allow him unlimited speaking time. Gal himself deserted the hall at about 5 a.m. to snatch an hour's sleep before having to chair a committee meeting a few hours later.

Goldschmidt said he participated in the filibuster because the party decided it was important to have someone responding to all the Likud's arguments. Though he would abide by the party's decision on the tax, he added, the law would certainly hurt Labor in the next elections.

Gal, while admitting that there are those who accused this government of "taxing everything that moves," scoffed at this concern.

"Woe to the [Knesset] if we begin directing this House according to 200 or 300 phone calls," he said.

Shohat also stoutly denied any concern.

"I feel comfortable with myself and sure of myself," he told the plenum in his concluding speech.

Some 160 amendments were proposed to the bill during the

second reading, but for the most part, only those of opposition MKs were voted on since most of the coalition MKs - under heavy pressure from the government - withdrew their proposals.

While most of these amendments were defeated easily by a show-of-hands vote, Shamai's proposal to exempt people investing up to NIS 50,000 from the tax was the subject of a tense roll-call vote. Three coalition MKs or their allies - Goldschmidt, Tarif, and Aryeh Deri (Shas) - broke ranks to vote for this proposal, but it was defeated 43-36.

Shohat and Gal, as the main defenders of the bill, argued that it was needed to correct the "historic injustice" whereby workers were taxed on their labor, but speculators could reap huge profits tax-free. Such a tax has been imposed in many other countries without damage to the stock market, they said, and the current decline on the Tel Aviv exchange cannot be blamed on the tax, since it began well before the tax was announced.

The Likud countered that the tax would discourage investment, and therefore hamper companies' efforts to raise capital for expansion. It will also promote inflation, the MKs argued, because the money raised by the tax will be used for government spending.

Realizing "Israel's economic potential requires reducing taxes, not adding more," summed up Netanyahu.



Armed Fatah Hawks rally in support of Yasser Arafat in Jericho yesterday. (Khaled Zighari)

PA, Hamas reach agreement to lessen tension

A TEMPORARY agreement has been reached between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas which is intended to lessen tension before tomorrow's planned Hamas rally in Gaza.

"All the parties in Gaza have agreed on the need to abstain from all displays of armed provocations," said a statement released by mediators in Gaza.

Two of the mediators, Sheikh Abdullah Darwish, of the Arab Islamic Movement, and Arafat adviser Dr. Ahmed Tibi, said that under the accord only Palestinian police will be allowed to carry arms in public during demonstrations.

"This is a partial and limited agreement to bypass the expected problems of the next few days," said Hamas spokesman Dr. Mahmud Zahar. "Nobody with guns, including the police, will be allowed in the area of Friday's memorial rally."

But he stressed that Hamas has not agreed to the make up of either of the committees set up by Yasser Arafat to investigate last week's riots. The PA has officially put the number of dead at 12.

Meanwhile, a crowd of some 3,000 braved yesterday's rain in Jericho to support PLO Chairman

Yasser Arafat in the face of the Islamic challenge.

Palestinian Authority Labor Minister Samir Ghosheh addressed the young crowd, exclaiming, "Welcome to the bearers of the armed struggle."

"It is not a Fatah demonstration, but one of all the Palestinian people," Col. Jibril Rajoub, head of the Preventive Security Service in Jericho said.

But it was to Arafat personally that youths carrying bullhorns shouted oaths of loyalty.

Armed Fatah youths, far fewer than at Monday's rally in Gaza, fired in the air briefly. Recent security trainees, Arafat's personal

guard, ran through the streets in camouflage uniforms, shouting slogans of support for Arafat, who is to meet today in Spain with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

A few disgruntled-looking young men in the short black beards of Hamas supporters stood on the edge of the crowd and walked away.

Bus brought hundreds of out of town high school pupils, including a group from Hebron waving a banner saying "The Palestinian Revolution Old Fighters Association."

While Jericho held its parade, the real work of handling Hamas was going on in Gaza, where Fa-

tah leaders from all areas met with Arafat to prepare for what still looks like the coming showdown.

On Tuesday night, Palestinian intelligence officer Jamal Abu Tomah was shot from ambush and wounded. Abu Tomah was no ordinary Fatah police recruit, but had once been active in the armed wing of Hamas, Izzadin Kassam, and therefore would have been well-known to Hamas activists.

Palestinian observers noted that he was most likely attacked not just in revenge for Friday's police shooting, but because he would be familiar with Hamas arms caches and operating procedures.

On Tuesday, security chief Gen. Nasser Yusef visited police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz in Jerusalem, indifferent to Hamas threats of revenge against collaborators and traitors.

However, Yusuf denied Israel Police assertions that he asked for advice on riot control.

In the growing crisis, the local Fatah leadership has found a role which Arafat cannot ignore. Former grass roots leaders, who emerged into the spotlight after the Oslo agreement only to sink back into the grass when Arafat took power six months ago, find themselves in the spotlight again.

Palestinian killed in Jenin clash

AN ARMED Palestinian was killed by border policemen in Jenin yesterday. The policemen on patrol encountered the man, who with an accomplice, were armed with Kalashnikov rifles. The gunmen shot at the border policemen who returned fire,

killing one of the gunmen, while the other escaped.

There was no confirmation to Israel Radio reports that the gunmen were Hamas fugitives. The IDF closed the area to conduct searches and part of the city was placed under curfew. (Tim)

Menem: Peres agreed to full Golan withdrawal

ISRAEL has indicated it is ready to withdraw fully from the Golan Heights, Argentine President Carlos Menem said in Damascus yesterday, but that statement has been denied.

Menem told a news conference at the end of his visit to Syria that he had brought a message from Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to President Hafez Assad.

"Peres gave me a message to President Hafez Assad expressing Israel's readiness to withdraw fully from the Golan for the sake of promoting peace in the region," Menem said.

"There is no doubt that peace in the region would be achieved very soon, more soon than you imagine. The Golan would be returned

to its owners," Menem said through an interpreter.

Menem said Peres gave him the message during a recent meeting at the UN.

Peres denied the reports. "I made clear to the Argentinean president the Israeli position regarding the Golan Heights, as I have repeated dozens of times. I did not pass such a message, and that is not my position. The report is baseless," he said in Jerusalem.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday in Washington that Israel has "almost" had secret contacts "here and there" with Syria.

He did not elaborate on how close those attempts came to fruition, or who was involved.

Rabin has told Israeli reporters during his week-long visit to the US that talks with Syria away from the media glare would be helpful. "We couldn't have reached

agreements with Egypt, the PLO and Jordan if they were exposed to the media," he said Tuesday evening.

Meanwhile, Likud MK Ariel Sharon said that Rabin and Assad are close to an agreement whereby Israel will quit the Golan Heights within three years.

According to Sharon, Rabin wants to exploit the fanfare over an Israeli-Syrian treaty to help win the next election, while postponing the bulk of the withdrawal until afterward.

Rabin, according to Sharon, wants to stage a small withdrawal from the Druse villages in stage one, then wait two years before returning to the international border.

Assad is demanding that Israel withdraw to the rim of the Golan Heights in stage one, thereby giving up all or most of the settlements, and then fully withdraw two years later.

Hillel Kuttler contributed to this report

Churches to call for special status in capital

THE HEADS of the historic Christian churches are to present a statement to Israel and the Palestinians calling for a special status for Jerusalem, in which Christian rights are to be guaranteed.

"We want our place in Jerusalem as Christians," said Archbishop David Sahagian, who represented the Armenian Patriarch.

He stressed that the statement was not directed against anyone, but that it did stress that all three monotheistic religions have their place in Jerusalem. The final form of the statement was agreed upon in meeting of the heads of the churches yesterday and it is to be delivered to Israeli and Palestinian officials today or tomorrow.

Shohat blasts 'disinformation campaign' against levy

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat accused large stockholders of having carried out a disinformation campaign against the stock market tax on capital gains and for having put immense pressure on Knesset members.

He noted that 75 percent of the stock market is in the hands of a small group of people, and some of them applied the pressure.

"Social justice is not accomplished by means of writing checks to the poor, but by changing the income structure and by creating a fairer distribution of income," said Shohat.

However, both Likud and Labor MKs reported a flood of phone calls from ordinary citizens opposing the bill throughout the night - to the delight of the Likud and the consternation of some Labor MKs.

"The Knesset guards who have been here 30 years said they've never seen a flood of people [call-

ing] like this," said Sylvan Shalom.

"They were completely ordinary people, from all walks of life," said Labor MK Elie Goldschmidt, who was worried enough to try, unsuccessfully, to convene a faction meeting on the subject. "I got the impression that they were speaking from the heart."

Shohat "doesn't know what's going on here," said Likud MK Ariel Weinstein, who was told by his secretary that people were crying into the phone. "He thinks he's taxing major shareholders, but it turns out that the investors on the bourse are ordinary people."

Weinstein said this flood of support was the main reason for the Likud filibuster, even though everyone knew it would not succeed in killing the bill.

"The public will see who is fighting for it and who is battering it," he said.

Chambers of Commerce go to court against law

A PETITION to the High Court of Justice against the capital gains tax law will be filed by the financial section of the Israel Chambers of Commerce.

The group claims the law contradicts the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom, since profits are to be calculated from December 31, 1994. Thus, if someone bought a stock before that date at NIS 2,000, and it was worth NIS 1,000 on December 31, and he later sold it at NIS 1,200, he would be liable for tax on a "profit" of NIS 200, even though he lost NIS 800 on the deal.

Its legal advisers see this as both unreasonable and harming the rights of the purchaser.

Members of the financial section include companies such as Singer-Barnea, Dovrat Shrem, Meitav, Securitas, Sigma, and Central Securities. It is headed by Shmuel Frenkel of Epsilon.

NATO bombs Serb positions for the third time in three days

SARAJEVO - NATO warplanes bombed Serb missile batteries yesterday, striking one of the targets twice to make sure it stopped threatening allied aircraft.

About 20 NATO attack and support planes from the United States, Britain, France and the Netherlands hit at least two Serb surface-to-air missile sites in a morning raid. Warplanes hit one of them again in the afternoon because the first raid did not put it out of commission, a NATO statement said.

UN and alliance sources said a third site may also have been hit in the first raid. It was the first time NATO, either acting on the United Nations' request or to protect itself, struck at multiple targets in any single day.

Meanwhile, UN envoy Yasushi Akashi said he had worked out a peace deal for Bihac with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and a Serb leader whose forces are attacking the Moslem enclave in northwest Bosnia.

Akashi said after the talks in Belgrade that he would put the proposal to Croatian, Bosnian

Moslem and Bosnian Serb leaders in an attempt to halt fighting which has provoked NATO air raids against Serbs.

Akashi did not give details of the plan.

NATO spokesman Capt. Jim Mitchell said the warplanes fired three missiles yesterday against Serb anti-aircraft radar in Otoka and Bosanska Krupa in northwest Bosnia and Dvor in neighboring Croatia locked onto them.

The statement from alliance headquarters in Brussels said NATO aircraft again struck at Otoka's missile site "since it was clear that the site posed a continued threat" to the aircraft.

Adm. Leighton W. Smith, NATO commander for southern Europe, said the morning attack was "in self-defense" after two British jets on a reconnaissance mission were fired at Tuesday by Serbs east of Bihac, a UN-designated safe haven. The Serb missiles, believed fired from Otoka,

missed the British aircraft.

NATO's new, tougher line against the Serbs has drawn the alliance more deeply into the conflict and prompted Serb warnings of retaliation. Smith said on CNN that the alliance's planes stood ready for more action if requested by the United Nations.

In Washington, Defense Secretary William Perry said the strikes were conducted in accordance with "a longstanding practice... that if any of those surface-to-air missiles try to engage or eliminate our aircraft, we are free to strike them."

Before the raids, NATO aircraft had struck at Serb targets seven times since the Bosnian war began in April 1992. On Monday, 50 allied aircraft joined in a strike on the Udbina airfield in Serb-held Croatia that had been used to bomb Bihac, 35 kilometers away.

The Bosnian Serb self-styled parliament was meeting yesterday in Pale, east of Sarajevo, to discuss the Bosnian Serbs' next move.



Levy: Government deceiving nation

THE government is deceiving the nation by granting sovereignty to the Palestinians in Judea and Samaria under the guise of an interim autonomy agreement, MK David Levy charged yesterday.

"We must oppose the continuation of the peace process without ifs or buts," Levy thundered during an emergency meeting of the Likud faction in the Knesset yesterday. "We must stop calling it autonomy. [The interim agreement] means handing over sovereignty to the Palestinians."

Levy warned that Israel was entering the "most dangerous phase of the peace process" now, rather than when the talks on the final

stage begin. That is because the IDF is making plans to pull out of large sections of Judea and Samaria, to which it would never be able to return, and because of plans to elect a Palestinian council which will receive international recognition as a sovereign body, he said.

He also warned that the interim phase would create "dozens of Netzarim" in Judea and Samaria which the army would be unable to defend. "We must launch an earthquake, not turn on a red light," said Levy.

Earlier in the meeting, MK Ariel Sharon said the Likud should draft a map determining which parts of Judea and Samaria should

DAN IZENBERG

not be evacuated by the army during the interim phase. These should include all the Jewish settlements, other security areas and the main roads, he said.

"The areas to be granted autonomy should be as small as possible in terms of size and as large as possible in terms of the Arab population contained within," said Sharon.

He warned that if the Likud did not prepare a counter-proposal, the government would implement its plan without the people being

aware of an alternative.

Levy interjected that the Likud should not consider any accommodation with the autonomy plan but must reject it outright. Sharon played down the dispute, saying later that he also opposed the autonomy plan, but adding that the Likud should be realistic and accept the fact that the government had a majority to push its plans through.

Sharon added that the statements by coalition leaders against the maintenance of Netzarim were actually aimed at the areas still under Israeli control. "They talk about [evacuating] Netzarim, but they actually mean settlements in

Judea and Samaria," he asserted.

Sharon warned that unless the army had Netzarim to look after, it would gradually withdraw from that sector of the Gaza Strip because of the dangers involved. He said that in the past, Israel had stopped patrolling dangerous areas where there was no civilian presence, such as the Banias area and Mevo Hama in the early 1950s.

He said Netzarim was also vital because it straddled the road to a proposed port for the Gaza district. It was important for Israel to be able to supervise the use of the port and prevent the import of weapons, Sharon said.

Netanyahu: New US Congress reflects Likud view on peace process

MANY of the powerful new figures in the US Congress take the same view of the peace process as the Likud - "peace through strength, not weakness," Benjamin Netanyahu, who just returned from the US, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

He said the new Republican leaders are not isolationists but "selective interventionists," who would not agree to give money to people like Syrian President Hafez Assad or PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

DAN IZENBERG

"The dichotomy is not between neo-isolationism and rubber-stamp interventionism," said Netanyahu. "What I see is a process of selection; that is, let's be more careful about where we intervene and where we don't, and let's be more careful about how we intervene. Let's not just throw money at arch-terrorists and dictators, hoping to buy them off, but let's be more prudent in the use of funds and the use of American

forces. And I think on the whole that is a wise approach."

Netanyahu said there is also much less chance the incoming Congress will grant Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's request for the deployment of American troops on the Golan Heights.

"What Israel is facing today is wholly different circumstances," said Netanyahu. "It is precisely with this shrinking American commitment abroad that we should not seek to interpose artificially between us and Syria an American force that is neither designed or able to pick up the job of protecting Israel, nor will it have the support of the larger currents of the American electorate, as demonstrated in the recent election."

Netanyahu added that the new Congress will not agree to "grease Assad's palms with billions of dollars" to persuade him to make peace.

He said he did not believe that Republican Sen. Robert Dole had changed his mind about opposing the deployment of US troops. Dole told reporters after meeting Rabin in Washington he would consider dispatching troops to the Golan as part of a multi-national treaty monitoring force. However, Netanyahu said Dole was speaking politely.

Amal takes credit for attacking SLA

DAVID RUDGE

THE Amal Shi'ite movement claimed responsibility for attacks early yesterday morning on South Lebanese Army positions in the central sector of the security zone.

The organization, in a statement issued in Beirut, said its fighters had fired at SLA posts in the Bar-shet region before dawn with RPGs, machine guns and light weapons.

There were no casualties among SLA or IDF forces in the area and they returned fire aided by artillery and tanks.

The attack was the first by Amal after a long period of inactivity. The vast majority of operations in the past few years have been perpetrated by Hizbullah, as well as Palestinian organizations, particularly those opposed to the Israel-PLO accord.

It was unclear whether this was a one-time attack, timed to coincide with Lebanese Independence Day, or marked the start of an attempt by Amal to rejoin the fray. Some observers said it appeared to have been carried out simply to demonstrate that Amal is still in the field.

Meanwhile, in an unrelated matter, Amal leader Nabih Berri was quoted in Lebanese press yesterday as saying that the question of the future of the SLA, in the event of a peace agreement with Israel, would be dealt with by the Lebanese themselves.

"This is a Lebanese matter because these are Lebanese people who have lost their way. Israel has got nothing to do with it," said Berri, who is also speaker of the Lebanese parliament.



US Health and Social Services Secretary Prof. Donna Shalala, shown meeting with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres yesterday, will receive an honorary doctorate during a ceremony today at the Haifa Technion. While here, Shalala - of Lebanese descent - will visit Palestinian hospitals and meet with Yasser Arafat. (Text: Judy Siegel; Photo: Brian Hendler)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Edri 'bagged' when taken to cell

A guard at the General Security Service section of Jerusalem's Russian Compound lock-up testified yesterday that Lt. Oren Edri was taken to his cell with a sack over his head, but added that this is standard procedure. He also said there were rats in Edri's cell.

Edri, an alleged member of a Jewish terror cell, is being court-martialed on charges of stealing weapons, conducting unauthorized military training, passing on confidential information, and conduct unbecoming an officer.

Hanukka party-goers end up in hospital

About 20 pupils and three adults were injured in a Tel Aviv school yesterday, when they inhaled fumes from a fire extinguisher turned on by a pupil who interrupted a Hanukka celebration. The incident occurred after a 15-year-old youth was thrown out of a party being held for first-graders, when he caused a disturbance. He returned with two fire extinguishers he found nearby, sprayed foam into the center of the room, and fled. Three parents and five children were taken to Ichilov Hospital with light to moderate injuries.

Safed hospital suffers near blackout

Israel Electric Corporation repair teams were still trying to trace and rectify a breakdown last night that left the Safed government hospital virtually without power. The hospital's problems were exacerbated by the failure of the emergency generator to operate, while a secondary back-up system was only able to provide limited power. Nevertheless, deputy hospital director Dr. Calin Shapira said all absolutely essential services were operating and no patients had been evacuated or turned away.

Peace Now: All Gaza settlements must go

THE Labor Party will shortly be forced to tackle head-on the thorny question of the Gaza Strip settlements, as the Peace Now contingent in Labor promised to bring the matter to a head even if the party leadership does not like it.

One of Peace Now's leaders, Tzili Reshef, along with Labor's Operations Director Ophir Pines, have demanded of party Secretary-General Nissim Zivili that he urgently convene the central committee to take up their demand that all Gaza Strip settlements, not only isolated Netzarim, be immediately removed. Sarah Honig

NEWSLINE

MOSHE INBAR

Prof. Inbar is a geomorphologist from Haifa University's Department of Geography.

There appear to have been some marked changes in weather patterns in Israel and the world generally in the past few years. What is happening to the climate?

It is true that climatic events have become more extreme in the past 20 years. The 1991-92 winter, for instance, was the wettest recorded in the past 150 years, while last winter was one of the driest ever. Temperatures in the country in the past 20 years have also been the most extreme since records began.

Are there any proven explanations for these phenomena?

It is difficult to ascertain from these figures whether in fact there is a real climatic change. We know, of course, that there is a global warming trend, and that the average temperature has increased by 0.6 of a degree centigrade in the past 100 years. This is the greenhouse effect which is the result of more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. There is also the separate matter of the reduction of the ozone layer and the attendant increase in ultra-violet radiation, the real impact of which has still not been determined.

What is the estimated cost of flood damage to property and to

what extent are floods themselves dangerous?

Floods are the major form of natural disaster in Israel and have caused the deaths of around 300 people since the establishment of the State, with damage running into at least \$1 billion over the same period. For instance, the cost of damage caused by the floods in the Haifa hayside district in winter of '91-'92 was put at around NIS 50 million. Many claims for compensation have still not been resolved.

What can be done to alleviate the risks and reduce the damage?

First and foremost, a natural disaster reduction team similar to those in the US should be established to take short- and long-term measures to alleviate the dangers. For instance, such a team would be able to decide in advance, based on weather forecasts and other information, which roads and areas should be closed to traffic before the flooding actually begins. Had such measures been taken before, it's quite possible that the two members of Kibbutz Kfar Rupin would not have been killed when Nahal Harod overflowed and burst its banks in the recent storms.

David Rudge

Storm wreaks havoc throughout country

DAVID RUDGE and RAINE MARCUS

THUNDERSTORMS, heavy rain and strong winds swept most parts of the country yesterday, causing a number of injuries and a spate of relatively minor road accidents.

The weather bureau said the wintry conditions would continue today with the prospect of hail in some places, snow on Mount Hermon and the risk of flooding in low-lying areas.

Some flooding was reported yesterday in central districts as well as in parts of downtown Haifa and the bayside area, but there were no major problems.

Police reported there had been over a dozen accidents on roads throughout the country, apparently as a result of the bad weather.

Tel Aviv was also gripped by storms yesterday with some drivers, now used to massive traffic jams, taking taxis instead of risking getting stuck in floods.

"We don't mind the rain at all," said one cabbie. "We have an abundance of work - our cars are in proper working order and traffic

jams only contribute raising the rate on the meter. Many drivers choose to take a cab because their cars don't start in wet weather or they don't want to get stuck in jams or deep puddles."

Windswept building site laborers packed up and went home as they faced gale force winds and heavy hailstorms.

Storms also affected telephone lines, and Bezeq reported a large number of inquiries to report phone faults. In Rishon LeZion, electric cables collapsed.

In Bat Yam, a man was lightly injured when a shutter he was trying to close crashed onto his head because of strong winds. Elsewhere in the town, an asbestos roof collapsed, slightly injuring one man.

The rain and strong winds are expected to die out tomorrow and be replaced by partly cloudy but dry conditions, although only mild Saturday night, when more rain is likely in northern and central districts.

The Limud Society
notes with deep sorrow the passing of
JEROME (Yirmiyah) ALEXANDER ז"ל
A devoted Chaver for many years, who will long be remembered for his altruistic dedication to Jewish souls and ideals, for his zeal in disseminating Tora-true teachings to many thousands of co-religionists worldwide, and his desire to blend Judaism and science in harmonious cohesion.
May his memory be a blessing.

World Zionist Organization Jewish Agency for Israel
mourn the passing of
ISRAEL KOSCHITZKY ז"ל
and extend sincerest condolences to
Henry and Julia Koschitzky
and their family
Mendel Kaplan Chairman of the Board of Governors Yehiel Leket Executive

The world family of Keren Hayesod - United Israel Appeal extends sincere condolences on the passing of
ISRAEL KOSCHITZKY ז"ל
to the Koschitzky family
May you be comforted with all mourners of Zion and Jerusalem
Shlomo Hillel World Chairman Moshe Gur Director General

To his wife, Golda Koschitzky
his sons, Sol and Mira
Henry and Julia
his grandchildren, great-grandchildren
and the entire Koschitzky family,
we extend our deepest condolences on the passing of the head of the Koschitzky family
ISRAEL KOSCHITZKY ז"ל
Nathan and Lily Silver Shoel and Eileen Silver

Ohr Torah Institutions of Israel are deeply saddened by the passing of
ISRAEL KOSCHITZKY ז"ל
A veritable patriarch of our age, visionary and Torah benefactor
We extend heartfelt condolences to his revered wife, Golda
his children, Saul & Mira, Henry & Julie,
to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren,
and to all those who were touched by his wisdom, wit and philanthropy
Shlomo Riskin Chaim Brovender
Roshel Yeshiva

MEET THE ISRAELI IN HIS HOME
The Ministry of Tourism is compiling a list of volunteer families (foreign language speakers) to host tourists in their homes for a friendly chat over coffee/tea and cake.
For details and registration please call
The Ministry of Tourism, 24 King George St., Jerusalem
Tel: 02-754877 Sunday - Thursday between 9 a.m. and 12 noon

TECHNION
Israel Institute of Technology
THE HON. DONNA E. SHALALA
U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services
will be awarded an
Honorary Doctorate in Science
on Thursday, November 24, 1994 at 6:00 p.m.
Please note a change of venue to Baltimore Auditorium, Bloomfield Building, Technion City, Haifa

THE JERUSALEM POST FORSAKE ME NOT FUND
SHE WAS ALWAYS THERE FOR YOU
Once when you were young, life was full of little joys and big disasters. Fortunately, no matter what there was someone you could always turn to - to make the hurt less painful, the problem less confusing, the loneliness less frightening. Your mother's love was as unconditional as it was boundless.
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Bnei Brak man held in gay killing

RAINE MARCUS

A YOUNG man was arrested yesterday for the murder of homosexual Zachy Winkler, 35, who was found battered to death in his Pardess Katz apartment on November 6.

The suspect, a Bnei Brak resident, 21, who apparently decided to leave religion, reconnected the murder for police.

He told detectives that had engaged in sexual relations with Winkler, as had others from Bnei Brak.

The suspect is one of a group of young ex-haredim who have discarded their religious upbringing for a secular life-style. During the course of the investigation, police discovered

one such group which engaged in homosexual relations on a regular basis.

Two Jerusalem residents, 19 and 22, suspected of harboring the alleged murderer, were also arrested.

While questioning members of the homosexual community, police were informed on Tuesday a 21-year-old, who had a homosexual relationship with the deceased, had been hiding out in a Jerusalem apartment. They traced and arrested him. Under questioning, said police, he confessed to the killing, and said he had

argued with Winkler.

At his Bnei Brak apartment, detectives found property, including a stereo system, answering machine, and compact disc player, which the suspect admitted to stealing from Winkler's apartment.

He told the police that he had also stolen Winkler's address book and personal diary, which he later destroyed. Winkler had been keeping a detailed record of all his intimate relationships.

The three suspects are expected to appear in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court today for a remand hearing.



Piet Merburg (right) and Geerttruda Van Lier, members of a delegation of 36 Dutch citizens who saved Jews during World War II and who were awarded honorary Israeli citizenship yesterday by Yad Vashem, lay a wreath there yesterday. Merburg helped hundreds of Jews escape Holland, while Van Lier saved more than 400 Jewish children by taking them into a day-care center she opened for illegitimate children born to German soldiers and Dutch women. (Isaac Harari)

'Nebi Samwil files purposely misplaced'

FILES regarding the Nebi Samwil land dispute were purposely misplaced, lawyer Pila Albeck said yesterday during the trial in Jerusalem of former interior minister Aryeh Deri.

Albeck, who headed the civil division in the State Attorney's Office, said that while she previously thought the files were accidentally misplaced, she now believes this was deliberate. Prosecutor Yehoshua Resnick said Albeck was mistaken, and that he planned to show this during the trial.

Albeck said that among her files was a letter from the cabinet secretariat stating that all necessary permits for building at Nebi Samwil had been approved, with the per-

mits having the signature of then prime minister Yitzhak Shamir. She added that she was sorry that the police had not made copies of the files in her office, and that she had not taken them with her when she left her post.

The purchasers of the Nebi Samwil lands had petitioned the High Court of Justice in 1992, asking that the government decision to delay building at the site be canceled. The State Attorney's Office claimed in its response that the permit to build at the site was invalid because Shamir had not signed it. But Albeck said that response was incorrect, even if given in good faith.

Deri's lawyer, Dan Avi-Yitz-

hak, asked Albeck how the state leased lands in Judea and Samaria for 100 years despite international law that prohibits selling land in occupied territory, and that leasing the land was like selling it. Albeck said that leasing was permitted by law, even for long periods, and that all the building in the territories was done based on long-term leasing of the land.

Health Ministry banning sale of 'miracle' mushroom pills

JUDY SIEGEL

ORDERS to immediately halt the manufacture and sale of tablets composed of Japanese mushrooms by the Solo company of Kibbutz Ein Yahav will soon be issued by the Health Ministry.

The firm has "repeatedly violated a 1992 court ruling barring it from claiming in its advertising that Kambushon tablets have medicinal properties," said Dr. Zvi Seidelman, deputy director of the ministry's food service division.

Two years ago, a court fined Solo NIS 2,000 for claiming the product - which is licensed by the ministry as a food and not medication - could cure a wide variety of medical conditions. The company committed itself not to repeat this violation during the following two

years or to pay a NIS 7,000 fine.

But Solo has resumed its advertising. The latest full-page ads to appear in the Hebrew papers last week gave "testimony" from Kambushon users, who claimed various medical problems disappeared as a result of using the tablets.

The ad also said customers said their "graying hair" had turned black, they "slept better," felt more energy, and enjoyed improved sexual performance.

Seidelman instructed district health offices in Beersheba and Tel Aviv to order a permanent halt in production and marketing and to restart legal proceedings.

No comment was available from Solo.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hospital holding chemical warfare drill

A drill to test readiness for treating victims of chemical warfare will be held at Haifa's Rambam Hospital today. The drill, to take place between noon and 7 p.m., will for the first time apply conclusions reached by hospitals from the Gulf War. The public are asked not to go to the hospital during the drill except for emergencies. The parking lot will be closed and no private cars will be allowed into the area during the exercise.

Beersheba councillor wants allocation back

A member of the Beersheba City Council has petitioned the High Court of Justice, asking that it order Mayor Yitzhak Rager to return to the city treasury the NIS 100,000 transferred to Jewish Art and Communications, a non-profit organization. Councilman Zecharia Ohev Shalom said the transfer was illegal because it was done without the council's authorization.

Tomato, cucumber prices drop sharply

Tomato and cucumber prices fell sharply yesterday in reaction to reports that produce from Gaza will be allowed into Israel, as will a supply of imports from Jordan and Europe.

The Ministry of Agriculture reported the wholesale price of tomatoes fell to NIS 5.5 per kilo in the afternoon from NIS 7-8 per kilo in the morning and NIS10 per kilo last week. The wholesale price of cucumbers has also fallen to NIS 3 - NIS 3.5 per kilo from a record high of NIS 7 per kilo last week.

Missing man's skull leads to identification

The skull of a man found Monday in an orchard near Moshav Amirim in the Galilee has been identified as that of an eccentric Nahariya man who disappeared several months ago.

The skull was found by a woman from Bustan Hagalit, near Nahariya. She brought it to Carmiel police. "It sounds like we made it up, but the woman came into the station and put a rotting skull on the table. She said she found it in an orchard near Amirim," police said.

Safed police found a watch and clothing at the site, which permitted identification of the body, and family members confirmed the identification.



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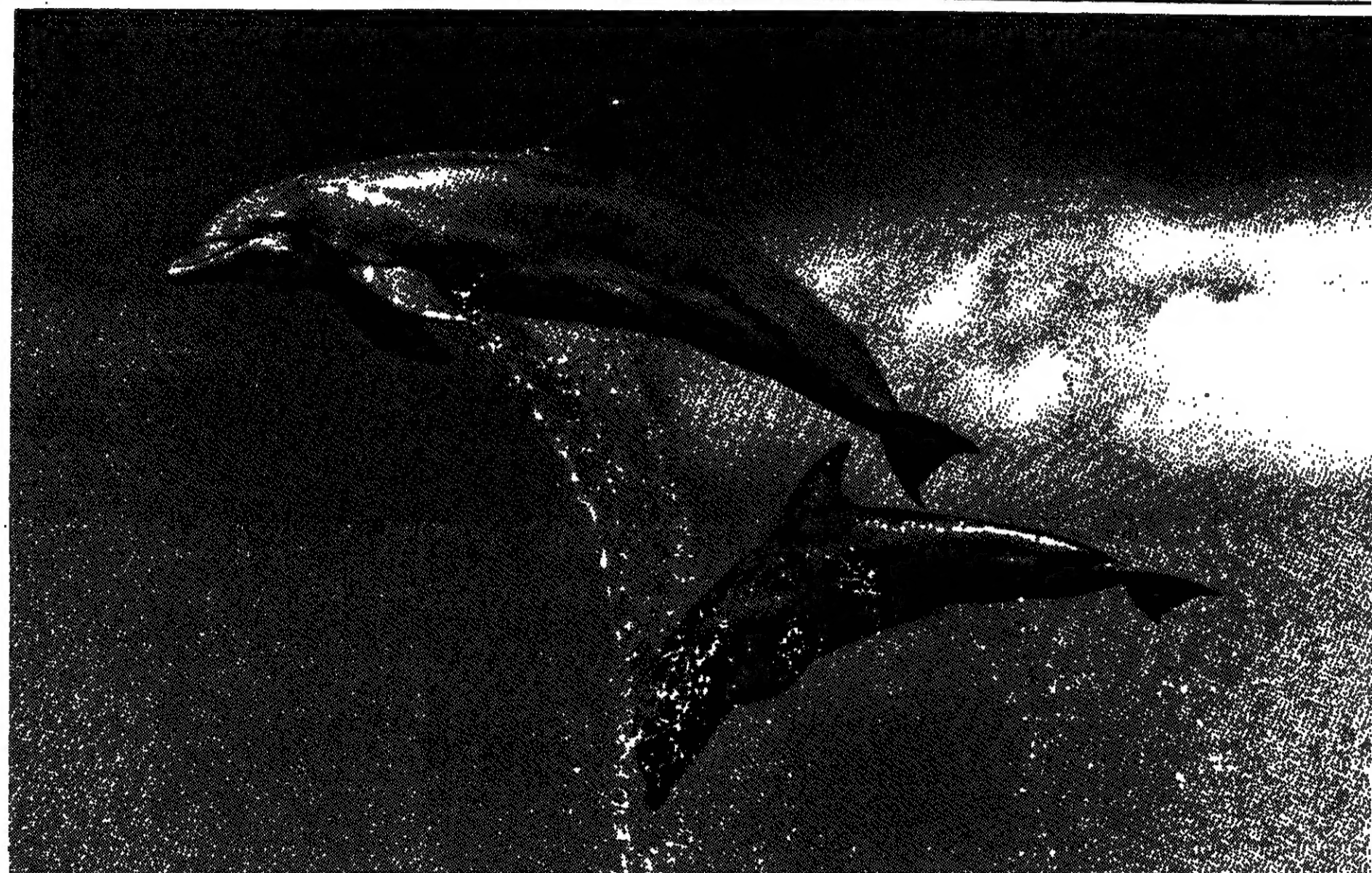
Thursday, November 24, 1994

Chanukah: A Challenge to Israeli Culture

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Italian president appears to back PM's refusal to quit

ROME (Reuters) — Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro appeared to back Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi yesterday in his refusal to resign over an investigation against him for alleged corruption.

The statement, issued by Scalfaro's office after he met the heads of both houses of parliament, indicated that all three of Italy's top institutional figures were eager to avoid an immediate government crisis over the affair.

Calling on the Senate, Italy's upper house, to proceed with calm consideration of the country's vital 1995 austerity budget, it said only a parliamentary vote of no-confidence could bring down the government.

Its wording echoed a battling statement by Berlusconi on Tuesday night in which he swore to remain in office.

Denying any wrongdoing, Berlusconi told television viewers: "Only a clear and explicit vote of no confidence by parliament would force me to write my resignation letter."

Milan's elite pool of "Mani Pulite" (Clean Hands) anti-graft magistrates, formally advised media tycoon Berlusconi on Tuesday that he was under investigation for alleged corruption, threatening his brief political career.

The contents of the notice, which is meant to remain secret and does not imply guilt, have not been confirmed.

But state television said investigators had 16 witnesses to back their suspicions that Berlusconi knew of bribes to tax officials alleged to have been paid by companies in Berlusconi's \$7 billion a year media-retailing empire.

Two newspapers, La Stampa and Il Messaggero, reported that Rome magistrates were considering whether they too should launch a formal probe into Berlusconi's affairs.

The unconfirmed reports said Berlusconi tried to pressure state broadcaster RAI to reach a deal to carve up television advertising with the three networks of his Fininvest group in violation of laws on fair competition.

Berlusconi, braving out the crisis by chairing the closing day of a UN ministerial conference in Naples on organized crime, repeated yesterday that he had done no wrong and again raised charges of a political conspiracy to bring him down.

"I'd describe my state as one of



A pensive Berlusconi presides yesterday over the final session of a United Nations conference on international crime in Naples

Jas Gawronski, Berlusconi's spokesman, said the prime minister would be questioned by the magistrates this week either in Milan or at his office in Rome.

Scalfaro, whose relations with

Berlusconi have been difficult since the billionaire businessman became prime minister in May, has ultimate say over when and whether to call early elections.

Yeltsin: We won't return 'one centimeter' to Estonia

PSKOV (Reuters) — President Boris Yeltsin stood on Russia's disputed border with Estonia yesterday and vowed Moscow would not give up "one single centimeter."

Estonia is demanding the return of some 2,000 square km now in Russia which belonged to it before World War II. But Yeltsin, on a brief visit to the border point of Kunitchka Gora, declared: "We will not give up one single centimeter of land no matter who claims it. They (claims) are futile."

Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, accompanying Yeltsin, urged Estonia to drop its claim.

"The sooner our neighbors realize the senselessness and pointlessness of raising territorial claims, the sooner we will be able to settle the border

will occur," Kozyrev told reporters.

The land Estonia wants returned belonged to it between 1920 and 1940, the year the Soviet Union annexed Estonia and dictator Josef Stalin handed over territory to Russia's Leningrad and Pskov regions.

Russia began erecting a fence last August along the existing border after Tallinn renewed its claims. Russia supported the Baltic state's drive for independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

But disputes over the rights of ethnic Russians in the Baltics, withdrawal of ex-Soviet troops and the border dispute with Estonia has cast a deep shadow over their relations.

Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik said that Yeltsin's trip was dic-

tated by Yeltsin's domestic political interests.

"We regret that he (Yeltsin) decided to make such a trip, evidently for domestic policy reasons," Luik told a news conference in the Latvian capital Riga after a meeting between foreign ministers of three Baltic states.

"This is not in the context of normalization of relations we had tried to achieve," he said.

At the meeting the ministers from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania signed an agreement to jointly police their borders.

Yeltsin, in separate comments to reporters after arriving at Pskov airport, declared that foreign intelligence services were exploiting the border "to penetrate the territory of Russia."

Secret Service: Helms didn't threaten

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Secret Service has determined that there was no threat against President Clinton when Sen. Jesse Helms said the president "better watch out" if he comes to North Carolina.

As far as we're concerned, the matter is closed," spokesman Jaime Cagigas said yesterday.

President Clinton criticized Helms for the remarks and Helms said he regretted making them.

In an interview with a North Carolina newspaper Monday, Helms had said Clinton is so unpopular on military bases that he "better watch out if he comes down here. He'd better have a bodyguard."

Cagigas said the agency looked into the matter, although a formal investigation was never opened.

"We have followed up on the comments and spoken with the senator's staff," Cagigas said. "We always knew the senator was never a threat or a target of an investigation, but we had to follow up on the comments."

Although he said Helms was never suspected of threatening Clinton, "We had to see what prompted the statement. Did he get a phone call? Did a constituent make a specific statement to him? We determined there was nothing there."

Helms, in line to be chairman of the influential Senate Foreign Relations Committee, for two decades has been a combative senator opposed to most foreign involvement.

The Republicans are expected to elect the 73-year-old North Carolinian as chairman of the committee for the upcoming Congress.

Over his 22 years in the Senate, Helms has perfected the art of making political foes uncomfortable. But his bodyguard remark and an earlier statement questioning Clinton's fitness to serve as commander in chief had even got some fellow Republican senators squirming.

Clinton called Helms' remarks

"unwise and inappropriate."

"That is a decision for them to make, not me," Clinton said when asked at a news conference about Helms and his elevation to the key foreign affairs seat in the Congress.

The president oversees the foreign policy of the United States, and the Republicans will decide in whom they will repose their trust and confidence."

White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta was more blunt. "I think the Republican leadership needs to take a very hard look at whether or not they want somebody with these kind of extreme views to chair one of the most important committees in the Congress of the United States," Panetta told reporters.

Asked if Helms was fit to become chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee — as he will in January — Sen. Thad Cochran of Mississippi replied: "Sen. Helms has been an outstanding senator."

The man who will lead the Republican majority in the new Senate told gingers: "I didn't see the entire statement," said Bob Dole. "My view is that the president of the United States is welcome to come to any state."

Dole also said, "I think pretty much that Jesse must have said most of this probably in jest." He said his seniority on the Foreign Relations Committee entitles him to the chairmanship.

The New York Times, in an editorial yesterday, called for Republicans to reject Helms as Foreign Relations Committee chairman, saying he is "no longer just another oddball communique whose outbursts are ignored."

"People listen to the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee," the Times said. "The Republicans have a duty to see that the chairman is someone who deserves an audience."

Menem visits parents' birthplace in Syria

YABROUD (Reuters) — Argentina's President Carlos Menem yesterday visited the Syrian town where his parents were born and scolded residents for not believing him on a prior trip when he said he would return a president.

"Here I fulfill my promise to you by visiting as a president of Argentina," he told cheering crowds at Yabroud, 80 kms north of Damascus.

The president said he loved and was very proud of Argentina "but the blood which runs in my veins is Arab blood... Syrian blood and I am honored to have this blood."

Menem is the first Argentinian president to visit Syria. He visited the country twice, in 1964 and in 1988, before becoming president. His parents Sand and Mahoeba Menem in 1913 emigrated to Argentina where he was born.

Menem said one of his Syrian uncles called him crazy when he said on the first trip he would return a president and no one believed him on the last visit when he repeated the vow.

He was given the key to the town of 33,000 by Mayor Youssef Kassous and he inaugurated a square named after him.

Later he visited relatives still living in his family's modest old house and chatted with them in broken Arabic over cups of bitter Arab coffee.

Menem arrived in Syria on Monday for talks on Middle East peace moves and economic cooperation with President Hafez al-Assad.

New York rabbi jailed for kidnapping

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

AFTER telling the court that he was the victim of a "blood libel," Rabbi Shlomo Helbrans was sentenced on Tuesday to four to 12 years in jail for kidnapping a student, Shai Fhima.

"I think it's a very stiff sentence given the facts in the case," said Helbrans' attorney, Paul Rooney. "There will be an appeal."

A Brooklyn court declined to free Helbrans late although his appeal is expected to be considered possibly as early as next week.

"There is much about this case that is tragic," said Brooklyn

District Attorney Charles Hynes. "I find no elation in Rabbi Helbrans being sent to prison, but the facts showed he had no legal right to interfere with the lawful parental custody of Hana Fhima by taking her son."

Helbrans, 32, was convicted earlier this month of the April, 1992, kidnapping of the boy after he had been sent to the rabbi by his mother for religious instruction. Helbrans was also convicted of criminal conspira-

cy. Jas Gawronski, Berlusconi's spokesman, said the prime minister would be questioned by the magistrates this week either in Milan or at his office in Rome.

The rabbi had turned down a plea bargain of one to four years by prosecutors. The case attracted wide attention here as a bizarre view of a battle between haredi and secular Israelis, waged on American soil.

Fhima went missing two years ago from his New Jersey home shortly after he began instruction for his bar mitzva. His disappearance led to an international search that at one time

pointed to Israel. The boy, who resurfaced last February, had spent his time hiding and studying in New York and in Paris.

Helbrans and his wife Malka, contend that they gave the boy sanctuary, and that he later ran away. The boy, who is now 15, testified at the trial on behalf of the rabbi.

During the five-week trial, the boy took the witness stand for the defense and said he was not kidnapped but had run away from his parents who were "anti-Jewish" and to avoid daily beatings by his mother.

Jewish leaders urge IKEA to open Israel stores to counter Nazi past

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jewish leaders urged Swedish furniture-maker IKEA to open stores in Israel as proof that the company founder's past involvement with pro-Nazi groups doesn't influence the chain store's policy.

The president of IKEA's North American operations, Goran Carlstedt, traveled from Philadelphia to Los Angeles for the meeting at the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

The meeting was called after the disclosure that IKEA founder and Chairman Ingvar Kamprad had been affiliated with Nazi groups starting in 1945 and into the 1950s.

In a telephone interview after the closed meeting, Rabbi Abraham Cooper said many Jewish leaders believe that IKEA may have turned down requests to open stores in Israel to honor the Arab boycott. The com-

pany has denied the charge. Cooper said the meeting with Carlstedt was positive, but added that only Kamprad would be able to address the concerns of the Jewish organizations.

"The ball is in his court," he said. "We are not demanding that IKEA should set up a company in Israel, but they should figure out if they can make money over there."

"I urged (Carlstedt) to send a team of financiers to Israel to look at the potential market there and to make a public commitment to do that quickly," Cooper said. "Carlstedt said he would pass that on to the chairman."

IKEA this month sent a statement to the press saying that "for some years IKEA has been purchasing products in Israel, although volumes are still limited."

Kamprad, 68, opened his first store

in 1958 and is listed as one of Sweden's richest men. His chain of stores sells disassembled, inexpensive furniture in large warehouse-style spaces. The company has grown worldwide with stores operating in 26 countries.

The Stockholm daily Expressen uncovered Kamprad's name in archives of Per Engdahl, who has been identified as one of Sweden's leading pro-Nazi activists of the 1940s, and published its findings early this month.

Kamprad quickly sent a letter to 25,000 IKEA employees worldwide, explaining his involvement with the groups as "a mistake of misguided youth."

Cooper said that wasn't enough, and urged Kamprad to take an "unequivocal and explicit" position opposing Nazi ideas.

At least 110 dead in Indian stampede

NEW DELHI (Reuters) — At least 110 people were killed in a stampede after a police baton charge on tribal protesters in the western Indian city of Nagpur yesterday, domestic news agencies reported.

They said the problem began when a crowd of protesters tried to break a police cordon set up to prevent them from marching on the Maharashtra state assembly.

The agencies quoted police as saying their men pushed back the protesters with long, iron-tipped bamboo canes and that began a panic-stricken stampede.

They quoted Kripashankar Singh, a senior member of the Congress Party which rules Maharashtra, as saying at least 110 people were killed.

The dead included women and children, the agencies quoted hospital sources as saying.

They did not give a reason for the demonstration by tribal people who are low on the Indian social scale and frequently say they are discriminated against in the country's rigid caste system.

Exiled Bangladeshi in Paris

PARIS (Reuters) — Exiled Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasrin, due to be tried at home for her controversial writings on Islam, said yesterday she would agree to a jail sentence provided the government could guarantee her safety.

With her life under threat from Moslem fundamentalists angered by her work, Nasrin arrived in France for a 10-day visit under heavy police protection.

Asked about her trial, which is due to start in Dhaka on December 10, Nasrin told a news conference on arrival at Paris's main Roissy airport that she wanted to return home.

"I don't know what will happen in the trial, and if they decide to punish me with two years jail, then I think that nobody can give me a guarantee I will be safe in prison."

MTV award ceremony to rock Berlin tomorrow night

LEYLA KOKMEN
BERLIN

HANG ON Handel. Watch out Wagner. The MTV Generation is coming to town.

Tomorrow night, the sounds and sights of international rockers like Prince, George Michael, Aerosmith and Roxette will erupt from the Brandenburg Gate as the first annual MTV European Music Awards celebrate the most popular musicians in Europe.

The 2,500 people seated in a domed tent on Paris Square in the center of Berlin will watch artists like Swedish Ace of Base and Björk from Iceland perform on a stage set against the background of the Brandenburg Gate.

MTV chose this site, where five years ago thousands of euphoric east and west Germans rejoiced at the collapse of the Berlin Wall, because it symbolizes the political changes that have taken place across Europe, said Armin Frohmann of Burson-Masteller, the Frankfurt office that handles public relations for MTV in Germany.

"In MTV's view, Berlin is the most interesting city in Europe, on the cutting edge between East and West," Frohmann said. "Berlin is the place where the new Europe is forming itself."

Germany is also MTV Europe's

largest market, since 20 million homes receive it here. This constitutes 30 percent of the 61 million homes in 37 countries that the 24-hour music channel has reached since it went on the air in 1987. MTV Europe has surpassed the 57 million homes that receive MTV USA and has become the largest member of the MTV family, which also includes MTV Japan, MTV Internacional, MTV Brasil and MTV Latino.

Most of MTV Europe's programs are produced in London, tailored to a European audience. Some programs, however, are imported from the US network, so the demonic chuckles of *Beavis and Butthead* can be heard all the way from the Baltic Sea to the Sahara.

The all-English-language European channel features video-jockeys from across Europe, and MTV News reports on youth-oriented international issues that occasionally go beyond pop-culture, such as AIDS, drug abuse and last June's European elections.

MTV Europe's awards also differ from their predecessors across the Atlantic. While the 10-year-old US MTV Video Music Awards are based

solely on video performances, the European awards are based on the success of international musicians in Europe.

"The focus of ours is a celebration of musical excellence, rather than video excellence," said Debbie Woodcock, MTV's publicity manager.

Artists were nominated for the awards by members of the press, record companies and video directors in Europe. The winners were selected by European MTV viewers, who for the past month have called a special telephone number to cast their votes. British singer Tom Jones will host the ceremony, and British supermodel Naomi Campbell and Michael Hutchence of the Australian band INXS are among the celebrities who will present awards.

The categories include: Best Group, Best Male Star, Best Female Star, Breakthrough Artist, Best Cover Version, Best Rock Group, Best Dance Act and Best Song.

The winner of another award, Best Video Director, was selected by members of the MTV Europe staff.

The awards show will be broadcast live on MTV to more than 240 million homes in over 100 countries including Israel, starting at 8 p.m. (AP)

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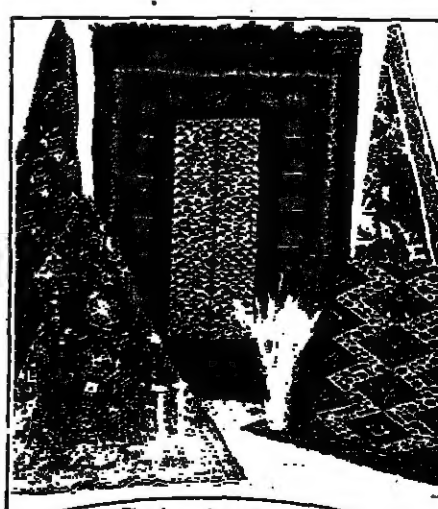
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The domestic violence scourge

FOR politicians, opposing violence against women is a little like supporting motherhood: the issue is as appealing, uncontroversial and "safe" as anything can get. It was hardly surprising, then, that the international day designated for protesting such violence received virtually unanimous support from Knesset members on Tuesday.

But a once-a-year unanimity before the cameras is hardly an adequate way to treat this painful question. Unfortunately, on the other 364 days of the year it fails to receive the attention it deserves.

The reasons for this neglect are many, but mostly it is a result of a general failure to understand the problem's dimensions. To say, as MK David Mena (Likud) did on Tuesday, that too much fuss is being made over wife beating because the phenomenon is rare, is to express what is probably the attitude of the majority. There seems to be an almost universal refusal to accept either the statistical facts on this chronic cruelty, or the enormity of its consequences.

According to women's organizations, there are 200,000 battered women in this country, and 460,000 children who are exposed to violence in the family. What makes these numbers particularly frightening is that all these children are likely to become wife beaters or battered wives when they establish their own families. Violence in the family is a cultural trait passed on from one generation to another.

In fact, chances are that if family violence is eliminated, all violence will dramatically diminish. Studies in the US have shown what anyone with common sense readily assumes that violent criminals are almost invariably products

of violent homes.

Obviously, the elimination of domestic violence cannot be achieved through legislation alone. The most effective long-range weapon is education. Violence against women must be stigmatized as the barbaric, cowardly and ugly crime that it is. And children should know from an early age that it is an unacceptable mode of conduct.

The police must be educated to treat complaints seriously and quickly. Victims must be taught that the right to live without violence is fundamental, and that they must expose their torturers with courage and determination. Judges, too, must learn that the danger a violent spouse poses is not restricted to his or her immediate victim, but to offspring and their future spouses. There is also merit in MK Yael Dayan's suggestion that the authorities should bar violent husbands from their homes rather than force their battered wives to seek shelter.

For its part, the Knesset should pass legislation to make domestic violence a serious crime, facilitate reporting such crimes and make speedy help available to victims. Above all, it must devote more time and energy to this problem. That Law Committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz) has to complain that no woman except Dayan shows up for committee meetings in which domestic violence is discussed points to the Knesset's indifference to the issue.

Ultimately, the problem is not "a women's issue." Violence against women and children in the home affects everyone. No society can tolerate this crime and expect to live a safe and peaceful life.

Regulating the economic engine

NERVOUS equity traders watched stock markets across the globe fall on Tuesday and yesterday, but early fears of a new crash appear to have been unfounded as the markets steadied near closing time. Yet the shake-down as the year draws to an end mirrored a wave of uncertainty at the beginning of 1994 and is raising questions about how firmly the world recession of the early Nineties is in retreat.

The US Dow Jones average of 30 major industrial stocks tumbled 92 points on Tuesday - the biggest fall since February - and yesterday reached its lowest level in four months as the wave of selling swept through the market for the second straight day. In London, the FTSE 100 index plunged 67 points at one point, the Paris bourse shed two percent off its shares value, and from Hong Kong to Jakarta, the Asian markets followed the trend.

The fall on Wall Street was all the more surprising since experts had been predicting a year-end rally in the wake of the sweeping Republican Party victories in this month's Congressional elections. The changes in the administration's policies were supposed to favor investment and savings and give the markets a boost.

The world-wide falls in share prices again demonstrated what an interdependent world we all now live in, with the US becoming the undisputed engine driving the major national economies. Most of the world's markets were in fact reacting to purely American domestic factors.

The US Federal Reserve now seems deter-

mined to end the boom-bust cycles that have bedeviled the Western world most of this century, and this may be no bad thing. The market falls were a direct reaction to the perception that the Fed will continue to raise interest rates in advance of even a hint of inflation, continuing a policy of tightening credit conditions. In a new world of instantaneous computerized trading, European and Asian markets have little option but to follow those in America.

The extra cost of borrowing in a high-interest environment of course has implications for economic growth - a prospect that always makes traders nervous. Yet many people and governments in the free market democracies have often felt that the stock market tail too often wags the economic dog. There is nothing inherently illogical in the Fed attempting to flatten the curve that soars first to economic boom and then plunges to recession, fed by inflationary pressure.

The pattern of falling stocks this week has been balanced by rising bond prices in America and Europe, evidence that investors have been moving out of volatile stocks and into more long-term bonds. The equities markets may just have to get used to the idea that periodic shake-outs are the way to pay for more stable economic cycles that benefit nations as a whole. Those who have lived through periods of runaway inflation understand all too clearly how their standard of living can evaporate before their eyes day by day. If a fall in the stock markets is the way to keep this pernicious enemy at bay, it is a price most wage earners will be more than happy to pay.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FOSTERING HATRED

Sir, - Ariel Sharon's articles in *The Jerusalem Post* have gone beyond the boundaries of responsible criticism by a public servant.

In his "Things that are sacred" (November 1), he protests "a foe being turned into a friend," accusing the government of "holding nothing sacred." Posing as a guardian of Jewish tradition, Sharon forgets our sages' urging: "who is a hero? He who turns an enemy into a friend."

In Sharon's latest call for the government to resign ("An easier life for Arafat" (October 21), Sharon displays a consistent attempt to build himself up at the cost of fair play and even honesty as the obvious yardsticks for measured and legitimate discourse.

The article ("Words, and more words" (August 28) is a perfect case in point. Sharon's reference to the government as an "imbecile" goes beyond all boundaries of legitimate and responsible political leadership. And this by a person who in a recent article complained about Labor's name-calling!

But then, Sharon gives justification for his name-calling in his piece "Venom in their mother's milk" (July 8).

While, on the one hand he finds it "alien and repulsive" to call Rabin a traitor, he holds that the government "invented these techniques." He implores the government not to "bring back that hatred" which brought out the name-calling hurled upon the Likud government a decade ago.

Does Sharon believe that employing such nomenclature as "imbecile" contributes to the lessening of "that hatred"?

For years Sharon spoke of making peace with Jordan. By his own admission, he had hoped that the Lebanon war would create a new Middle East map whereby Jordan, with a devastated Palestinian community expelled from Beirut to points further west, would want to come to the peace table. Yet his continued claim that Jordan is Palestine did not serve as an enticement to King Hussein.

Now that Israel has concluded a peace agreement with Jordan, all Sharon can do is abstain from supporting it in his Knesset vote.

Sharon speaks of "lack of respect" (August 14) that the government has for peace. He accuses the government of turning peace from a means into a goal, by telling us that national security should be the goal. For most level-headed individuals, peace is the ultimate guarantor of national security, and not the other way around.

In "Sickness in Jerusalem" (August 3), Sharon accuses the government of giving away Jerusalem by enfranchising Jordan as the guardian of the Moslem holy sites. He even throws back Rabin's statement that Sharon "gave up every last centimeter of Sinai" by telling Rabin that "he is relinquishing the last centimeter of the soul of Judaism" (the Temple Mount). He says that the government's reasons for such an act lie "somewhere between ignorance and contempt."

What is contemptible is Sharon's disdain for any attempt at compromise in order to attain peace.

RABBI DAVID FORMAN

Jerusalem,

THE FATE OF NETZARIM

Sir, - Following the attack and loss of lives caused by a Palestinian suicide bomber near Netzarim, there has been a great deal of discussion about the advisability of dismantling the settlement there.

The location of the settlement was immaterial to the perpetrator of the attack. His aim was to kill Jews irrespective of the location. Therefore, those who advocate the abandonment of Netzarim and similar small settlements are using the act of a fanatic as the basis of their argument and provoking Arab fanatics to follow the example of the Netzarim terrorist, inviting further loss of Jewish soldiers.

OTTO WEISS

Netanya.

Sir, - How many soldiers are going to be killed in Gaza before Mr. Rabin dismantles the settlements in Gaza? It is a pity he does not follow the advice of Shulamit Aloni.

A. KRAMER

Kibbutz Galed.

OLD IPO SUBSCRIBERS

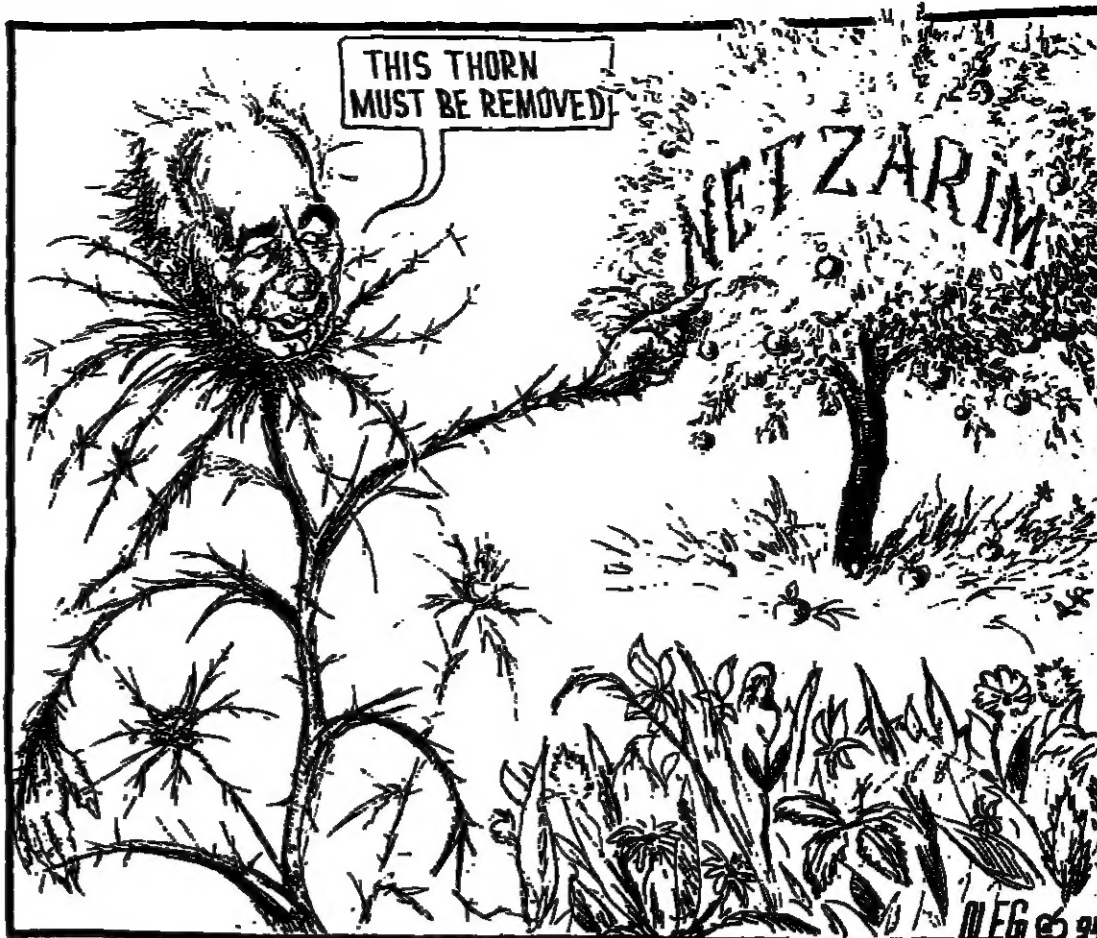
Sir, - In her letter of October 23, Sally Benokor states that no one contacted her to find out why she did not renew her subscription. Our records clearly show that she was contacted at the beginning of August, again on August 22 and yet a third time. As you can see, we cherish our old subscribers, and do everything in our power to keep them as such.

AVIGDOR LEVIN

Chief Business Officer

IPO

Tel Aviv.



'Kill and kiss' tactics

BEFORE the deaths of four Israeli soldiers near Netzarim in Gaza, Yitzhak Rabin, in his capacity as defense minister, received but did not heed three urgent warnings from high-ranking military and security experts.

First: He was strongly advised by a senior military professional to move the military post at the Netzarim junction - which didn't conform to even elementary military standards - back a few dozen meters and rearrange its defenses, as they were poorly sited. Unless this was done urgently, the men there would become sitting targets for terrorist attacks.

Secondly: A high-ranking security analyst reported that there are now some 3,000 Hamas activists in Jerusalem waiting for orders to carry out or support acts of terror inside the capital. There are also some 20,000 Hamas or other Islamic fundamentalists in Judea and Samaria. They and their suicide squads are on standby.

Thirdly: Security advisers told Rabin to beware of Yasser Arafat's frequent tactic of killing some of his rivals to strengthen his macho image, then sitting down and making secret deals with the fundamentalists to destroy a common enemy - in this case, Israel.

Rabin was warned bluntly that Arafat sees Netzarim as a test case prior to eliminating all the settlements in Judea and Samaria. Starting with the smallest ones, he will, domino-style, purge the entire area of all its Jews.

Then he will wait for the chance to seize the greatest prize of all: Jerusalem, the envisaged capital of his future Palestinian state.

He is already working toward this goal, treating Orient House as his foreign ministry, increasing the number of Palestinian-controlled organizations in Jerusalem, and encouraging the concentration of numerous Hamas activists in the capital.

BEFORE leaving for the US last week, Rabin, with the army high command in tow, did go and inspect the outpost at the Netzarim Junction. And his extensive army experience told him something was wrong. He gave orders to improve the security arrangements.

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

But security sources say that local army officers who have to interpret orders are paralyzed, having been led to believe that the agreement which calls upon Arafat to control the area is a sacred cow.

As a result, these officers have been facing an agonizing dilemma. In the absence of specific orders to move the army post at Netzarim, they dare not, as OC Southern Command Shaul Mofaz admitted

As Israel bends backwards to accommodate Arafat, the PLO leader gives a nod and a wink to Hamas

yesterday, take any initiative on their own. They have been warned not to do anything which might upset Arafat and his security pact with Israel.

When the Arab mobs cross the frontier of Arafatland, the Palestinian Police turn their backs. As a result, instead of defending themselves, as they have been trained, our youngsters have to turn tail and run away.

On September 22, this column reported that "an explosive situation is building up just below the surface, as large quantities of arms and explosives pour into Gaza." This is common knowledge to every security man in the country, yet only now has the cabinet been told about it.

Our information is that the situation has worsened. The flood of increasingly sophisticated weapons originating in Egypt has reached large-scale proportions.

Today - and for the past two months - these weapons are being distributed to Hamas and other Arab activists in villages and towns in the territories. Arms are also crossing the Green Line into Israel, where volunteer suicide bombers and terrorists await the go-ahead. The weapons are given to

Hamas mobsters with a nod and a wink from Arafat.

This buildup of some 23,000 Hamas men in the Jerusalem and Judea-Samaria area is part of Arafat's grand design for a Palestinian state, headed by himself.

Last Friday's massacre in Gaza bears the stamp of the PLO chief's "kill and kiss" tactics. After the deaths of opponents, he opens negotiations with his rivals or enemies from a position of strength.

Arafat used this tactic repeatedly in Lebanon, taming rivals, then skillfully maneuvering them. He has used a similar ploy with Rabin-Peres, killing Israelis for years, then making an agreement to stop terrorism. Never has he been so successful.

Rabin's entire "peace plan" is based on trusting Arafat to keep his word and tame Hamas. Without Arafat as the queen on the chessboard, the entire policy of the present government would collapse.

Today the PLO chief is playing the same game with Hamas, turning the blame for what happened in Gaza in Israel's direction. His deal with Hamas is based on strengthening ties. He has agreed not to interfere with Hamas men bringing as many arms as they want into Gaza, or with the open training of Hamas terror squads in the Gaza area.

Right now, capitalizing on the swelling support from leftists in Rabin's cabinet to "dismantle Netzarim," Arafat's police are doing nothing to curb the attacks near the settlement. And once Netzarim goes, Arafat, with Hamas in tow, will focus on Judea and Samaria.

Arafat is certainly encouraged by the cabinet blaming the settlers, "because they are there," for the killings at Netzarim.

With all this for a background, Foreign Minister Peres is suggesting that Israel present the PLO chairman with an immediate gift of NIS 50 million shekels to help him out of his predicament.

And Arafat? He'll be laughing all the way to the bank.

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

Moral motives

RICHARD HARWOOD

TODAY'S journalists are more sophisticated and crafty than the drunks and impecunious bums who populate films and fiction about the trade. But still, "virtue," "morality" and "ethics" aren't words or notions they spend a lot of time defining.

Yet journalists are not unexposed to moral problems and issues. A lot of what they do is a conscious search for immorality, unethical behavior and a lack of virtue in the lives of others and in society as a whole.

The press not only searches out "immorality" as the good cop of democracy. It positively pursues and is driven by moral agendas that are often mistakenly and superficially described and criticized as "political biases."

This is an idea that may not go down well with some journalists, or with those who regard news people as little more than literary thugs - amoral "attack dogs," "bottom feeders" and so on. But journalists are activated by moral

The press is more than the good cop of democracy

imperatives more often than they admit, even to themselves.

This has been true throughout the history of America. Journalists have drawn their identities from the causes and moral issues in which they have soldiered, not from the love-nest murders and Johnstown floods they have covered. In the last century, these causes involved imperialism, the distribution of wealth, slavery, the taming of capitalism, the "melting pot" issues and struggles for political legitimacy.

In this century, the press has been deeply involved in the tensions and struggles between capital and labor, the racial battles for civil rights, the role of government in the social and economic life of the country; in endless battles over government repression and the abuse of power, and, in more recent times, the "movements" embracing health, the environment, the war in Vietnam, the roles and rights of women and homosexuals.

MORAL considerations inspire the media's sporadic attention to cruelty and starvation in distant lands, to the boat people and homeless of the 1980s and 1990s. The media have become global preachers, spreading their moral doctrines as well as their culture throughout the world.

On President Clinton's trip to Asia last week, journalists raised questions about the morality of "trying to advance a major new trade initiative with some of the world's most authoritarian regimes" - China and Indonesia are cases in point. The whole "human rights" edifice, as seen in the press, has been built on a foundation of moral concern, rather than on questions of international law or national custom.

In recent years, considerations of morality, virtue and ethics have been involved in media decisions to invade the sexual privacy of public and private individuals. There was a semi-revolt - on "moral" grounds - at *The New York Times* over the paper's decision to publish the name of a rape victim.

Morality and "character" issues were factors in decisions to publicize the presumed adulteries of Gary Hart, Chuck Robb and Bill Clinton, as well as the sexual behavior or interests of such people as Bob Packwood and Justice Clarence Thomas.

The rationale couldn't have been that public interest in sex is too powerful for the media to resist. If that were true, there would be material on the sex lives of every prominent figure in Washington, from Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg to Leon Panetta.

Journalists are often uncomfortable talking about "morality" or "ethics" in news gathering.

But pictures of starving African children weren't acquired, broadcast and published day after day, week after week, merely to win a prize or sell a newspaper.

Something else was at work, something the American composer Roy Harris once said "gets into our blood as well as into our brains" - like the idea that it is wrong for one man to own another, or that it is wrong for the naked man to starve or freeze on the doorstep of the ghoulish millionaire.

That "something" is a moral or ethical concept, whether we call it "humanism" or "a demand of conscience," or simply "the right thing to do."

The writer is a former ombudsman of *The Washington Post*.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



This is it, folks: the world's largest foot. Matthew McGory, 21, sports a size 26, which he did not inherit from either his father William (size 10) or his mother Maureen (7½). The Spring Hill, Florida, family invested \$2,500 for each of Matthew's five pairs of shoes. (AP)

Show a kind friend you care after her mastectomy

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie, Someone who has been very kind and helpful to my family for years had a mastectomy recently. She was not the one who informed me, but I understand it is not a secret. I would like to do something nice for her, or buy her a gift, but I am at a loss as to what this should be. Do you have any suggestions?

Kindness Repayer
Jerusalem

Dear Repayer, First try to find out if there is something this woman has a yen for. Ask a family member or close friend of hers. If you still come up empty, you can send her a generous holiday (Hanukkah) package, with a letter expressing your empathy and gratitude for her kindness over the years. Include a standing offer to assist her in any way she needs.

But keep in mind that women can have very strong reactions following such surgery. She may be depressed right now, or not up to social niceties. Whatever gift or favor you select, do not be insulted if her response is less than bubbly.

Dear Ruthie, Every winter, I get in a terrible rut. The afternoons drag on endlessly with the children (ages nine, seven and four). They fight more than usual, and sit in front of the TV, and pester me about their boredom. What can I do, now that the cold weather is beginning, and I foresee the agony?

Chilled Child Chaperone
Haifa

Dear Cha Cha Cha, Hibernation is for the bears. Resist the typical inclination to stay indoors during the winter. Get everyone dressed warmly enough, and go to the park when it's not raining. Go for walks during drizzles: kids love strutting with umbrellas.

Use small errands—such as buying a loaf of bread—as activities, rather than chores. Being outdoors is a spirit-booster, and puts color in otherwise pallid cheeks. It also makes coming back home to a hot drink feel like a special treat, rather than another tedious event in a monotonous afternoon.

Dear Ruthie, I have been feeling very de-

pressed lately. My life seems totally out of control. I would like to see a psychologist, but we really can't afford it, what with the mortgage, the children's extracurricular activities, veterinarian bills and about a million other things. What does someone like me do when she needs to talk to someone before exploding?

Down in the Dumps and in Debt
Greater Tel Aviv Area

Dear Down and in Debt, Your list of expenses indicates that you could afford therapy if your priorities were to be readjusted—even temporarily. It's all a question of how much you believe in your own importance. After all, you would have no problem reorganizing your budget if anyone in your family needed surgery.

Dear Ruthie, I share a flat with two other students. A short while ago, one of them arrived home with a cat she'd found in the trash. I don't like cats, and when we moved in together, there was no mention of pets. I consider our "new addition" an infringement upon the status quo, and therefore feel I have the right to veto its entrance into our flat. But my flatmates say that since there was no decision not to have pets, the cat can stay. What do you think?

Feline Flustered
Somewhere in Israel

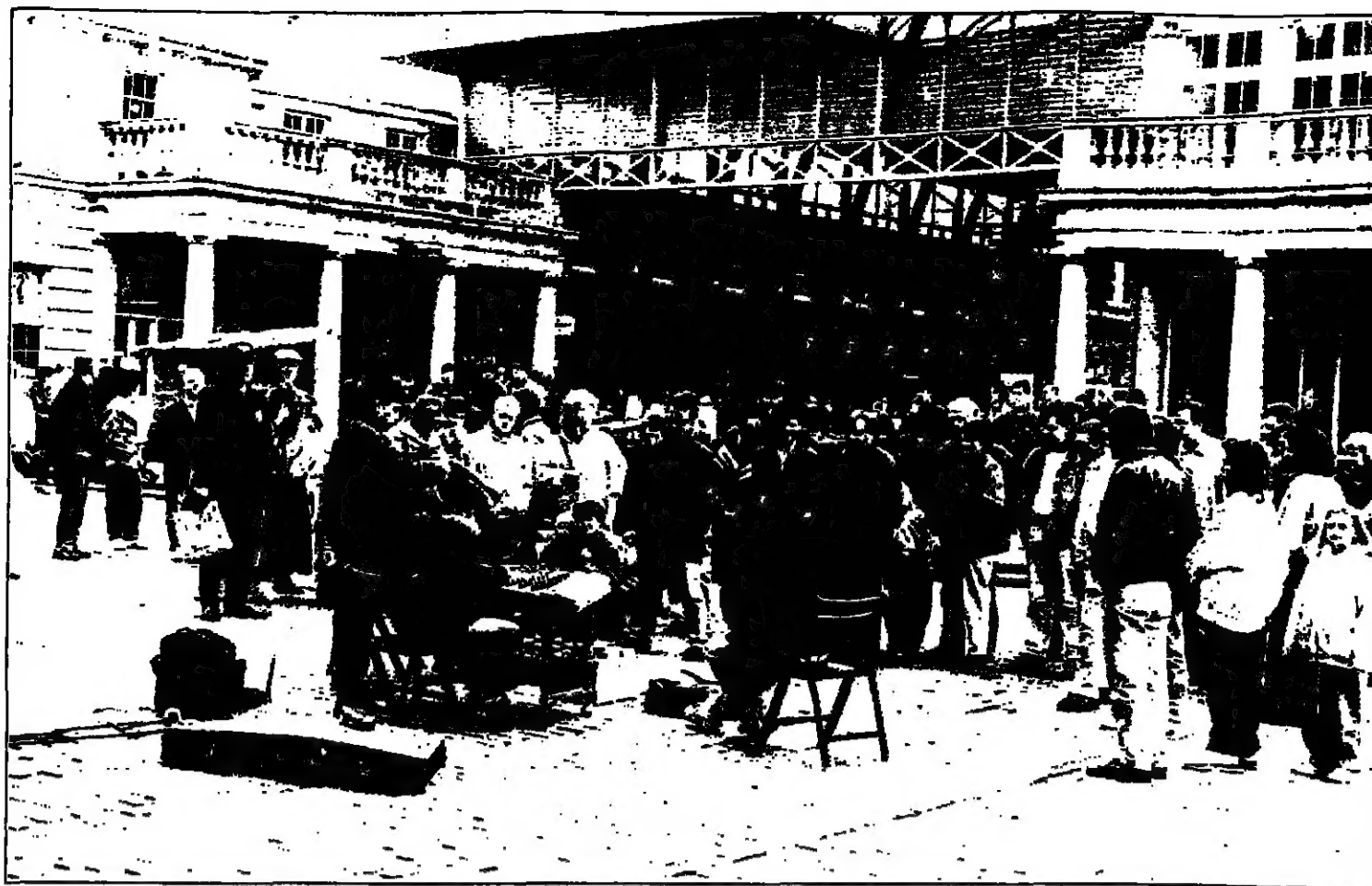
Dear FF, Your flatmate should have consulted you about her adoption intentions. Communal arrangements call for considerate behavior.

Perhaps the lack of consideration here should serve as a warning signal about your future in this flat.

But, since the "damage" has already been done, it's unlikely the pet will get ousted. Demand to be informed of any further alterations in the status quo.

Meanwhile, take your partners' example and become a bit more self-serving. The bright side is: You never know when the cat incident will come in handy as leverage in your favor.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)



Two men play Chinese music near Covent Gardens; visitors of all ages are entertained by London's street musicians. (David Brauner)

Surviving London with teenagers

TRAVEL
GLORIA DEUTSCH

YOU can spend two weeks in London with two teenagers and still manage to do all the things you want to do.

The secret is trade-offs and tolerance. You endure Rock Circus and the London Dungeons, only on condition that they put up with the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Tate.

A more drastic solution is to let them go off on their own, which not every parent of a 14- and 16-year-old is prepared to do.

Of course, many of London's attractions have universal appeal. First stop is invariably Madame Tussaud's, which everyone enjoys although some exhibits are unfamiliar to Israelis, particularly TV personalities who haven't made it to cable, and cricket luminaries.

It's fun posing with a waxen Arafat and smooching up to Hussein, getting chummy with Churchill and speculating about how they've positioned Diana and Fergie in the Royals display. You can circumvent the long line outside by buying tickets for the adjacent Planetarium too, well worth a visit. And the "Spirit of London" Disney-like ride appeals to all ages.

The Chamber of Horrors is hardly daunting to boys used to the grisly world of *Terminator* and *Die Hard* films, nor are the London Dungeons, with their graphic torture displays. Does the MTV

generation suffer from nightmares at all, one wonders?

The Rock Circus wax museum on the South Bank, recording the history of pop, with ear-splitting music added, will make them feel at home.

Interest in museums is very much a matter of taste, not age. Our scientific 16-year-old was in ecstasy going around the Science Museum and the Natural History Museum, and had to be dragged away from displays of cells, molecules and binary numbers. For me and the (artistic) 14-year-old, it was pure purgatory.

The next day we revealed in the National Gallery while our budding Einstein took one look at a Leonardo da Vinci, expressed some scathing remarks about a load of smelly old pictures and opted for feeding the pigeons in Trafalgar Square for the next hour until we emerged sated with glorious masterpieces.

The Tower of London appeals to everybody; ancient history seeps from its walls and the setting of its collection of weaponry and armor catches the imagination. Everybody marvels at the Crown Jewels, now visible from a slowly moving conveyor belt.

Next to the Tower is another

Disney-type ride at the Tower Hill Pageant, a fun and painless way to learn London's history. The museum has a wonderful display of artifacts found during excavations of the city.

Buckingham Palace is again open to the public, and even if it's basically yet another museum the younger generation still appreciates the glamor of royal life, even if the finer points of great antiques leave them cold. And the time-honored pastime of trying to make a guard smile will pass an idle moment.

SHOPPING. A part of any trip to London, is unlikely to hold any enchantment for boys. Once they've collected their quota of new socks from M&S on Oxford Street, they've had enough.

I always find it fascinating to see the heavily veiled Moslem women coexisting so beautifully with Israeli travelers at the "reduced" bins and to reflect that the identical nightie is going back to two different bedrooms, one in Khartoum and one in Kfar Sava.

But the only shopping the boys enjoyed was the Sunday morning Petticoat Lane market where they found things to interest them—3D pictures, cassettes, cheap watches

—and where the patter of salespeople and jewelry sharks is endlessly entertaining.

Lunch at Bloom's, with its waiters straight out of central casting, making sure they slop the soup as they throw it on the table, is a necessary part of any Sunday in London, followed by an afternoon trip to Speakers' Corner to hear the assorted nut-cases preach that the end of the world is nigh and other controversial topics.

London theater is justly famous and shows can be found that are suitable for teenagers—but beware. We took them to a matinee of *Dead Funny* advertised as a big-hit comedy and were confronted with some full frontal male nudity and simulated coitus on stage—at least I think it was simulated, you never know with the London stage these days.

It was excruciatingly embarrassing for their parents, especially in view of the boys' kippot, but they took it in their stride.

Much more suitable was the Topol Fiddler on the Roof, which looks set for a long run; any musical is usually OK. Tickets are sold at half-price at Leicester Square. Other very successful outings were a boat trip on the Thames and a visit to the Museum of the Moving Image.

We managed to do a lot but left a few things undone for the next trip. Perhaps by then they'll want to do the British Museum.

Hot prices this winter for US trips

TRAVEL TIPS
HAIM SHAPIRO

THERE may not be an airline price war this year, but there are certainly skirmishes.

Tower Air is offering a \$637 round-trip fare to the US for specific dates, including December 6 and 19. The airline promises to have additional flights at this price in the future. Tower Air also has packages, starting at \$829, which include airfare and three nights' accommodation at a hotel in New York.

The rate for a couple is NIS 350 on weekends and during Hanukkah. The hotel is managed by the Swiss Ponte group.

Eilat's Carlton Hotel is offering a nightly Hanukkah rate of NIS 300 per couple.

THE NEW four-star Shalom Plaza Hotel in Eilat, located at the entrance to the town near the shopping areas, is offering Israelis a midweek rate starting at NIS 260 per couple.

The rate for a couple is NIS 350 on weekends and during Hanukkah. The hotel is managed by the Swiss Ponte group.

Eilat's Carlton Hotel is offering a nightly Hanukkah rate of NIS 300 per couple.

THE JERUSALEM Renaissance Hotel is offering a winter rate to Israelis of NIS 179 per person, including breakfast, with a child free in the parents' room. The price includes use of the hotel's health club.

AIR FRANCE is throwing in free use of a rental car for three days with its \$399 round-trip ticket to Paris. Passengers can include a stop in London for an additional \$66.

SKY HAKIKAR is organizing tours to Jordan for three, four and six days for \$369, \$469 and \$599, respectively. The four- and six-day trips include a jeep tour in Wadi Rom.

The company also has a 10-day tour to Tunisia for \$825 and an 11-day trip to Morocco for \$825.

BRITISH AIRWAYS has set a special of \$749 from Tel Aviv to Casablanca. The flight to London is with BA, while the London-Morocco leg is on Air Gibraltar.

Natour offers a three-day package to Zurich from \$388, including airfare, hotel and breakfast. The company also has a seven-night ski package in Switzerland beginning at \$949, including round-trip fare, hotel and half board.

Omniworld offers rooms at Les Deux Alpes, a French ski and winter-sport resort near Grenoble, for \$60 a night, half board. A week at a ski club at the same site is \$465 for six days, with full board, wine and a lift pass.

HERTZ CLIENTS in the US now have the option of a navigating system, "Never Lost," in which thousands of destinations are logged in a computer system and directions may be viewed on a small video screen on the dashboard.

The system is available throughout California and Florida, as well as in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, New York and Washington.

A story of silence, secrecy and Vietnam—in Minnesota

BOOKS
STEVE SILK

IN THE LAKE OF THE WOODS, by Tim O'Brien. Houghton Mifflin. 306 pp. \$21.95.

FOR novelist Tim O'Brien, even the cool, crisp evergreen forests of northern Minnesota can simmer with the heat and stink of the steamy jungles of Vietnam.

O'Brien was a grunt in 'Nam 26 years ago, and the horror of that war has burned like a fiery tracer through a number of his novels and short stories.

The writer's latest novel, *In the Lake of the Woods*, confirms that for O'Brien, Vietnam never really ended.

Nor has it ended for Richard Wade, the novel's protagonist.

Wade is a political hopeful whose shot for a national office is blown out of the sky when news stories reveal his wartime partici-

pation in the massacre of hundreds of villagers in a hamlet known to history as My Lai.

After a sound thumping in the primary—which he had once been virtually assured of winning—Wade and his wife, Kathy, sink off to a remote cabin at the Lake of the Woods in northern Minnesota to lick their wounds and to rekindle their foundering relationship.

It is a grim moment of truth for Wade, a man who has spent much of his life manipulating others in hopes of gaining their love or loyalty or both.

But things rapidly go from bad to worse. There is the candidate's consuming struggle to accept both his political loss and a past he has hidden even from himself.

Then, there is a night obscured by dense fog—and rage. Wade, angered at his disgrace, pours boiling water over the cabin's houseplants. He goes to his wife and smooches her hair. He stands waist-deep in the lake. He dreams of boiling red water. He wakes alone. Kathy is gone—and with

her, the boat from the cabin's boathouse.

Just when it seems as if *In the Lake of the Woods* might be little more than a finely written whodunit, O'Brien's absorbing novel leaps deep into a hall of mirrors. Truth becomes elusive, yet multidimensional.

And instead of narrowing down to a conclusion, O'Brien's story becomes ever more expansive, as new avenues of possibility open at every turn. He knows there's no mystery as good as an unsolved one, that enigmas and doubt are far more tantalizing than certainty.

The main story of Wade's loss and Kathy's disappearance is propelled by a straightforward narrative, but that river of glimmering prose is full of intriguing eddies.

Chapter-long bits of "Evidence"—snippets gleaned from sources such as the court martial of Lieutenant William Calley (the commanding officer at My Lai), a magicians' handbook, and friends and relatives of the fictional characters—are used to conjure a rich

Rashomon-like portrait of Wade. By turns, Wade is guilty, innocent, or simply the latest in history's long line of victims.

In the meantime, another alternating series of chapters dubbed "Hypothesis" offers possible explanations for Kathy's disappearance. Was she killed? Did she run away? Is the whole thing part of an elaborate ruse in which the couple escapes to a new life in another country?

As word spreads that Wade's wife is missing, police and investigators arrive at the remote backwoods resort. A manhunt takes shape. Wade is eyed as a possible suspect.

With all those plates spinning at once, you might expect things to end with a crash. But the man whose 1979 Vietnam novel *Going After Cacciato* garnered a National Book Award is far too subtle and dexterous for heavy-handed theatrics. O'Brien keeps his magic at a high pitch, higher than Wade—a boyhood magic buff whose card tricks earned him the moniker Sorcerer in Vietnam—can

possibly hope to sustain.

Wade's magic, after all, is mere trickery, manipulation, a tampering with what is real and true. Politics was, for Wade, another higher form of magic, an earnest yet warped expression of his need to atone for his past and of his need to be loved.

O'Brien's literary sorcery, on the other hand, results from an almost alchemical transmutation of his own life. *In the Lake of the Woods* echoes with eerie parallels of O'Brien's personal experiences. O'Brien hoofed through Thuan Yen, as the hamlet of My Lai is known in Vietnam, the year after the infamous massacre. And, like Wade, O'Brien suffered a painful breakup with his lover, a woman named Kate.

O'Brien even tiptoes into his novel. Parts of the "Evidence" he compiles create an opening in which the author interacts with his literary characters and comments on Wade's motivations. This is where the lines between fact and fiction blur.

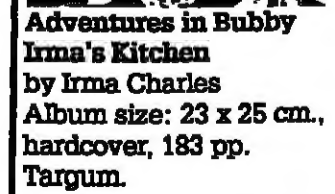
And this is where the demons

Good ol' Fashion Jewish Cookin'

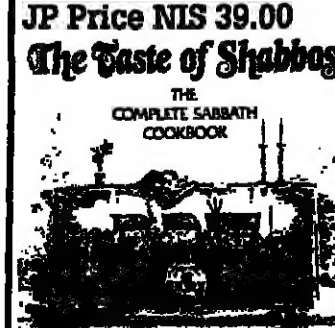
Here's all your favorite traditional Jewish dishes from the old country. And almost as good and dependable as the recipes themselves is the love, knowledge, wit and wisdom the authors share, while you're preparing a bounty of time-tested kosher favorites for your loved ones.



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BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1994

European markets show recovery at day's end

Many analysts still believe worse to come

LONDON (Reuters) - European stock markets, after a horrible morning, clawed back some of their losses in late trading yesterday, encouraged by signs of steadiness on Wall Street.

London's FTSE 100 index, 67 points down at one stage, was back to 3,027 - off 51 points or 1.66 percent - by the close.

The Paris CAC 40, more than 2.0% off in the morning, recovered to end 0.96% down.

Other European bourses followed the same pattern, but Frankfurt's DAX, closing before Wall Street opened, finished near its lowest, 2.0% down on the day.

The partial European recovery came as usual on the back of Wall Street.

In early trade the Dow Jones average was 33 points down from Tuesday, but recovered half its losses to around 3,657 by the European close.

The US Thanksgiving holiday will mean the markets can pause

for breath on Thursday, but many analysts believe there is worse to come.

"We're seeing some sporadic bargain hunting without much conviction," said Michael Metz, market strategist at Oppenheimer & Co.

"But this is not the long-term bottom by any means." "The technical picture for the Dow is horrible," said Robin Aspinall, analyst at Panmure Gordon in London.

He expected the Dow to rally in the next few sessions but to test its 1994 low of 3,520.80 by Christmas.

Hans Van Moerkerken, technical analyst at Swiss Bank Corp. in Geneva, also expected the Dow to track higher in the next few sessions but then to fall to the 3,580-3,600 area, with institutions switching into higher yielding bonds.

Michael Diehl of Nomura Bourse in Paris said both the US

and French equities markets would remain under pressure and the CAC-40 could test 1,800 before ending the year at between 1,930 and 2,000 points.

Only in London was there a degree of optimism, despite the FTSE's recent track record of closely following the Dow.

"If you do see some stability on Wall Street... there is certainly a domestic fundamental picture in the UK which is very positive," said Richard Kersley, strategist at BZW.

"We don't have the same degree of overvaluation of equities against bonds as in the United States."

Richard Jeffrey of Charterhouse Tilney agreed. "We are also not as far down the road in the economic cycle as the US. The problems which are feared on Wall Street, such as inflation and interest rate rises, are further off here."

'Immigrant mortgages source of next economic crisis'

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE immigrant mortgage program will be the source of the next major government economic crisis, Tazpit Research Institute Director Aharon Fein said yesterday.

Fein, who spoke at a Treasury seminar in Jerusalem, warned that by 1996, the financial crisis will reach NIS 20 billion or more.

A majority of the wave of new immigrants from the CIS that arrived at the beginning of the decade has purchased apartments with the help of government subsidized mortgages. Their average price is about NIS 230,000 of which NIS 100,000 is financed by government preferential mortgages while the remaining amount is covered by additional loans or by the immigrants themselves.

To help repay their mortgages, the government also provides them with a housing subsidy. Half of the government's NIS 850 million subsidy allocation covers such mortgage payments.

The subsidy is offered only during the immigrants' first five years here. Based on inflation, Fein estimates that by 1996, the immigrants' debt will reach between 130% to 140% of the original value of their loans.

Fein expects immigrants to have difficulty in meeting their mortgage payments for three reasons. First, aside from buying a

home, many immigrants have bought cars and appliances which they are also financing by loans.

Second, most CIS immigrants adopt a middle-class standard of living. Over 40,000 immigrants from the CIS have traveled abroad since arriving, and 75% of all immigrants are linked to cable television. According to Fein, immigrants use up most of their income to pay for consumption, while housing expenses are often covered by the government.

Third, immigrants' incomes are relatively lower than their native counterparts.

The main cause for the crisis, however, will result from the immigrants' political power in the 1996 elections, since they believe the government has not compensated them for their support in the 1992 vote. As a result, Fein predicts the government will be pressured to forgive part of the mortgages to retain immigrant support.

To avoid this crisis, he suggests the government should better utilize immigrants' skills which, in turn, will increase their income and enable them to meet their financial obligations.

Treasury Budget Director David Brodet termed Fein's analysis "a great exaggeration." He added one should not give immigrants the impression that financial obligations can be avoided by political means.

Final Mizrahi bids due today

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Ofer-Wertheim and Akrov-Steinitz groups are scheduled to submit final bids for the purchase of United Mizrahi Bank by 5:00 p.m. today.

MI Holdings, the government-owned company in charge of the sale process, has set the minimum price for controlling interest in Mizrahi at \$110m. The firm set the

price to accelerate the final sale process, which has dragged on during the last two weeks.

MI Holdings believes that at least one of the two bids will be over \$110m. The government is selling off 26% of Mizrahi's shares with an option to buy an additional 26%.

The initial deadline to submit bids was Monday, however, it was delayed after the Ofer-Wertheim consortium requested a one-day extension to examine the bank's financial statements. The deadline was postponed for a second time on Tuesday due to a disagreement between the bidders on the final stage of the sale process.

Isrotel may postpone upcoming stock issue

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ISROTEL will postpone plans to issue 25 percent of its shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange unless the Securities Authority agrees to a pre-sale issue to European institutional investors, David Lewis, chairman of Isrotel and the Lewis Trust Group, said yesterday.

Isrotel is pressuring the Securities Authority to approve its draft prospectus allowing the company to go ahead with its public offering, which is based on its second-quarter results.

For the past two weeks, Isrotel officials have been in Europe trying to make a pre-sale issue to investors there.

The company expects about 60% of the issue to be bought by European financial institutions, but the Securities Authority is unsure whether a pre-sale to foreign investors is legal.

"The Authority discussed the issue yesterday [Tuesday] and saw no reason to approve it. According to the law, only financial institutions in Israel are allowed to take part in a pre-sale. We are trying to find a way to solve the problem," a Securities Authority spokesman said.

He added the issue will be debated at the authority's next council meeting which has yet to be scheduled.

"No Israeli company has had any significant investment from Europe. We went to major financial institutions in England, brought them here, and sold them the idea," Lewis said.

"I am afraid if we go back to these institutions, some of which are the largest in the world, and tell them we have wasted their time, it will be a long time before they will look again at Tel Aviv as an investment."

He said the decision to issue shares now has to do with exemption from the new capital gains tax law.

Lewis said Isrotel's third-quarter net profits were not good, partly due to expenses incurred from the opening of the Royal Beach Hotel in Eilat and the closure of the King Solomon Hotel for a few weeks.

He predicted the company will end the year with a drop in profits compared with 1993, however, profits will more than double next year.

'Economy requires new policies'

JOSE ROSENFELD



Hurvitz: Raps public sector wage agreement negotiated by Treasury.

(Uzi Keren)

THE country's openness to the world economy requires changes in its fiscal, monetary and foreign exchange policies, Treasury Budget Director David Brodet said yesterday.

He was speaking at a seminar held in memory of budget division officials who were killed during the Yom Kippur War, where businessmen, academics and former government officials analyzed the problems facing the local economy in the mid-90s and offered ways to deal with them.

Teva Managing Director Eli Hurvitz lashed out at this year's public sector wage agreement negotiated by the Treasury, "which no devaluation or cost of living wage adjustment package deal can address." He suggested, instead, across the board cuts in wage contracts, with the option for management to pay higher wages based on performance.

Hurvitz warned local companies of multinational firms' interest to purchase them, and suggested they take measures to avoid being taken over, especially in light of the large amount of undervalued stocks available in the bourse.

Teva has instituted a staggered board of directors which replaces one third of its members every year to make a takeover difficult. In addition, ownership of Teva shares is diffused, with no one

shareholder owning more than 5 percent.

Nevertheless, Hurvitz said a strategic partnership between local firms and multinationals, which could contribute new technology and new markets, would be beneficial.

He called on the government to adjust the currency basket to favor

exports by lowering the ratio of European currencies and the yen against the dollar in the basket, since most exports are dollar denominated.

Tel Aviv University Economics Professor Leo Leiderman suggested the Bank of Israel loosen its grip on the exchange rate and keep prices in check by means of the government's declared inflation goal and by controlling interest rates. The large capital movements between Israel and foreign countries have limited the exchange rate's efficacy to control prices. As a result, he recommended that the central bank expand the band within which the currency can fluctuate.

Bank of Israel senior director of research and foreign currency, Avi Ben-Bassat, rejected Leiderman's suggestion, saying that in a small and open economy, control over foreign exchange is the most effective method to meet the government's inflation goal.

Leiderman said the best way to keep an economy that is heating up in tow is to cut budget expenditures.

Asked whether the Treasury is considering cutting next year's expenditures to help cool inflation, Brodet replied there will be cuts in the budget to make up for the loss in revenues as a result of the expected 1.4% health tax cut.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Leumi Mortgage Bank reported third-quarter net profits of NIS 6.6 million, up from NIS 89,000 in the same period last year.

The bank recorded a 34.9% growth in net profits for the first nine months of the year to NIS 18.3m., from NIS 13.5m. in 1993. Annualized net return on equity increased to 15.8%, from 13.4%.

The Arab Israel Bank, a Bank Leumi subsidiary, reported a 49% drop in third-quarter net profits to NIS 2.6m., from NIS 5.1m. in the same period last year. The bank completed the first nine months of the year with net profits of NIS 8.8m., down from NIS 13.5m. last year. Annualized net return on equity fell to 7.1% from 12% last year.

Ganai, a manager of pension and provident funds' assets, plans to issue mortgage-linked bonds to provident funds. The company has purchased NIS 150m. worth of mortgage portfolios from Bank Adanim, Bank Yehoshafat and Bank Carmel. The company is also negotiating with other mortgage banks to purchase additional mortgage portfolios.

Carmel Carpets' liquidators are allowed to examine all transactions related to the Textile House's office floor, Tel Aviv District Court Judge Yeshaya Levitt decided yesterday.

The liquidators claim that ex-Carmel owner MK Avraham Shapira gave his wife, Tova, the Textile House's office floor as a gift at the company's expense.

The judge rejected Shapira's appeal to cancel the liquidators' request that the Shapira family return the shares and rights they have in Textile House. The liquidators have asked the court to instruct Tova Shapira to return rental payments she has received from the office floor.

Levitt dismissed Shapira's claims that in 1984, when the office floor was purchased, the company was solvent and was able to give its shareholders benefits from its profits.

The judge also rejected the ex-Carmel owner's claim that the liquidators' grounds for their request is outdated since it relates to a transaction made in 1984.

Ben-Eliizer okays housing construction in Upper Nazareth: Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliizer approved the construction of 5,000 new homes in Upper Nazareth in the next three years to try and ease shortages due to the continuous influx of newcomers there. Ben-Eliizer made the announcement during a visit to the city on Tuesday where he met with mayor Menachem Ariav. Ariav said the population of Upper Nazareth has surged from 25,000 residents in 1991 to 41,000 at the beginning of 1994 - a 60% growth rate.

WORLD BRIEFS

SmithKline sells animal health business: Anglo-American drugs group SmithKline Beecham Plc said yesterday it had agreed to sell its worldwide animal health business to Pfizer Inc. for \$1.45 billion cash. SmithKline said it was now concentrating on building global synergies between its pharmaceutical, clinical laboratory and consumer healthcare businesses.

US durable orders down: Sharply lower orders for new cars and aircraft pulled the value of durable goods orders down in October for the first time in three months, the US Commerce Department said yesterday.

Total orders for durable goods - products like furniture, cars and computers - fell 1.5 percent to a seasonally adjusted \$152.8b. after a revised 0.3% rise in September.

Last month's fall in overall durable orders was caused entirely by a sharp decline in orders for transportation goods, which plunged 9.4% to a seasonally adjusted \$35.2b.

It was the biggest one-month drop in transportation orders since July, when they fell 14.8%.

AT&T to bid for stake in France's Bull: AT&T will bid for a stake in state-controlled computer maker Cie des Machines Bull and has outlined its intention in a letter to the French government, the president of AT&T Europe told *Le Figaro* yesterday.

"We want to become 40 percent shareholder in Bull. We are interested both in the computer market as in telecommunications," said Pier Carlo Falotti. An AT&T spokesperson in Paris confirmed the remarks.

Commerzbank profits down: Germany's Commerzbank AG, the first of the big three Frankfurt banks to report 10-month earnings, said yesterday its profit fell by a third in the year to October as trading income plummeted.

The company said its group operating profit after provisions for bad debt fell to \$426.4 million from \$587.3m. a year ago.

Court halts tender for B-G Airport's new terminal

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday issued an interim injunction halting the tender for planning Ben-Gurion Airport's new terminal, in response to a petition filed by the Association of Engineers and Architects.

The last date for submitting bids was supposed to be on Sunday. The injunction will be in force, however, until the case is heard. The petition challenges the Airport Authority's decision to force local firms to apply for the tender. It claims local firms lack the necessary experience to handle the \$830 million project.

The petition charges that this is gross discrimination, which violates both the government's obligation to treat all companies equally and the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation. In addition, it violates the government's obligation to give preference to local firms whenever possible, in line with the principle of "caring for the poor of your own city first."

Furthermore, the decision violates the authority's promise to allow local firms to participate in the tender as joint venture partners with foreign companies, and to do at least 50% of the work. This promise was made to the petitioners on November 14, and repeated to the Knesset State Control Committee the following day.

Immediately after this promise was given, the petition says, the association asked the authority for

the project's specifications so local firms could prepare their bids. The authority refused to give them the material, saying the entire matter was still under discussion.

The authority also refused to extend the deadline for submitting bids. This would have made it impossible for local firms to prepare a bid even if they had the necessary material, since a bid for such a major project cannot be prepared in 12 days.

The petition argues that while there are a few specific areas in which local firms do lack the necessary experience, they certainly have enough knowledge to do most of the work, having already completed projects such as Ben-Gurion Airport's current terminal and Tel Aviv's new central bus station. The holes can be filled in by joint ventures with foreign companies, the petition says.

By refusing to let local companies bid for the project, the authority is besmirching the reputation of local firms, which will make it harder for them to win bids for foreign tenders.

Furthermore, this decision contradicts all the government's declarations about the need to combat unemployment in general, and to create suitable jobs for immigrants in particular. During the past few years, 30,000-40,000 Russian engineers have immigrated, and this project could provide work for several of them.

056 phone lines cannot be disconnected for now

EVELYN GORDON

THE state has been temporarily forbidden to disconnect 056 phone lines, due to an interim injunction issued by the High Court of Justice yesterday.

The injunction, issued in response to a petition by Telad, a company which provides services on 056, will be in force until the case is heard at the beginning of December.

The petition challenges new regulations closing off 056 phone services - largely used for pornography entertainment - to any subscriber who does not submit a written request to be connected.

A new dialing prefix, 057, will be open to all subscribers, but will be limited to informational services.

The Communications Ministry made this decision in response to numerous complaints about the 056 services.

Telad claims, however, that the new regula-

tions are tantamount to censorship. Since everyone agrees the pornographic services are legal, the petition says, there is no justification for discriminating against them with respect to informational services.

The decision also discriminates against local purveyors of pornography with respect to foreign suppliers, the petition charges, since foreign firms can be accessed by dialing the international country code, without submitting a written request to Bezeq.

Zim's profits fall 25% to \$6m. despite higher revenues

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

ZIM reported a 25 percent drop in third-quarter net profits to \$6m. compared with \$8m. during the same period last year, on revenues of \$334.9m. compared with \$326.3m. Net profits for the nine-month period ending September 30 were \$23m., up from \$17m., on revenues of \$963.5m., up from \$934.9m. in 1993.

Elco Holdings recorded third-quarter net profits of NIS 37.4m. compared with NIS 48.6m. in the same period last year, on revenues of NIS 385m., up from NIS 281m. last year.

Net profits for the nine-month period were NIS 72.6m. compared with NIS 79.2m., on revenues of NIS 1 billion, up from NIS 897m. last year.

Paz Chen announced quarterly net profits of NIS 1.4m. compared

with NIS 1.9m. in 1993, on unchanged revenues of NIS 25.9m.

• Odf Investment and Development announced third-quarter net profits of NIS 2.28m. compared with a net loss of NIS 147,000 in the same period last year.

• Crystal reported a 38% drop in third-quarter net profits to NIS 1.2m., from NIS 1.99m. in the same period last year. The firm had revenues of NIS 31.4m., up from NIS 27.1m. in 1993.

Earnings per share fell to NIS 0.63 compared with NIS 1.04.

• Israel Steel Mills recorded a 125% rise in quarterly net profits to NIS 4.5m. compared with NIS 2m. in 1993, on revenues of NIS 107.7m. compared with NIS 99.3m. Earnings per share increased to NIS 0.085 compared with NIS 0.039.

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Date: 22.11.94
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Redemption Price: 131.07

למזרחי פיא

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למזרחי פיא

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (23.11.94)

Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.850	5.825	5.820
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	5.850	5.825	5.825
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.776	4.695	4.690
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.125	4.065	4.060
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.676	2.625	2.620
Yen (¥10 million)	0.780	0.675	0.670

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (23.11.94)

Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRAVEL	BANKNOTES	Rep.		
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Percent	
U.S. dollar	3.2530	3.2520	2.95	3.00	3.3791
German mark	1.9387	1.9380	1.91	1.91	1.9387
Pound sterling	4.7280	4.7247	4.54	4.54	4.7280
French franc	0.5847	0.5798	0.56	0.56	0.5847
Japanese yen (¥100)	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024
Dutch guilder	1.7281	1.7250	1.70	1.70	1.7281
Swiss franc	2.2910	2.2890	2.25	2.25	2.2910
Scandinavian krona	0.4057	0.4044	0.40	0.40	0.4057
Norwegian krona	0.4430	0.4402	0.44	0.44	0.4430
Denmark krone	0.4648	0.4609	0.46	0.46	0.4648
Finland mark	0.6354	0.6344	0.63	0.63	0.6354
Czechoslovak koruna	2.1802	2.2110	2.14	2.14	2.1802
Austrian dollar	2.2740	2.3001	2.23	2.23	2.2740
S. African rand	0.8477	0.8366	0.76	0.76	0.8477
Belgian franc (10)	0.9451	0.9368	0.93	0.93	0.9451
Australian dollar (10)	2.7510	2.7386	2.71	2.71	2.7510
Italian lire (1000)	1.6784	1.9028	1.84	1.84	1.6784
Japanese yen	—	—	—	—	—
Egyptian pound	—	—	4.04	4.29	—
ECU	—	—	0.86	0.81	—
Israeli new shekel	3.6850	3.7461	—	—	3.6850
West mark	4.6545	4.7201	4.35	4.31	4.6545
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2526	2.3304	2.26	2.42	2.2526

* These rates vary according to bank. — Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Key Representative Rates

US dollar	NIS 3.0230	-0.43%
Sterling	NIS 4.7617	-0.01%
Mark	NIS 1.9532	-0.06%

NEW YORK STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

DJ Industrial	11,775	-1.83
DJ 30	1,177.5	-1.83
NYSE Composite	3,128.2	-1.8
NYSE 100	3,128.2	-1.8
NYSE Midcap	3,128.2	-1.8
NYSE Smallcap	3,128.2	-1.8
S&P 500	3,128.2	-1.8
AMEX Comp	3,128.2	-1.8

Other stock market indexes

FTSE 100	3,022.5	-51.2
Nikkei 225	10,000.0	-1.5
Hong Kong Hang Seng	8,578.0	-37.2
London FTSE 100	3,022.5	-51.2

Israeli stocks in NY

NYSE / AMEX	Last	Change
Alcoa	101.75	-1.25
Alcoa	101.75	-1.25
Alcoa	101.75	-1.25
Alcoa	101.75	-1.25
Alcoa	101.75	-1.25
Alcoa	101.75	-1.25
Alcoa	101.75	-1.25
Alcoa	101.75	-1.25
Alcoa	101.75	-1.25

NY MONEY MARKETS

Dollar crosses (US)	Last	Change
Point	92.00	+0.004
Point	92.00	+0.004
Point	92.00	+0.004
Point	92.00	+0.004
Point	92.00	+0.004
Point	92.00	+0.004
Point	92.00	+0.004
Point	92.00	+0.004
Point	92.00	+0.004

Libor rates

Dollar	3 months	5.50%
Dollar	6 months	5.50%
Dollar	12 months	5.50%
Dollar	3 months	5.50%
Dollar	6 months	5.50%
Dollar	12 months	5.50%
Dollar	3 months	5.50%
Dollar	6 months	5.50%
Dollar	12 months	5.50%

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

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NY STOCKS AND METALS

US commodities	Last	Change
Crude Oil	20.00	-0.10
Crude Oil	20.00	-0.10
Crude Oil	20.00	-0.10
Crude Oil	20.00	-0.10
Crude Oil	20.00	-0.10
Crude Oil	20.00	-0.10
Crude Oil	20.00	-0.10
Crude Oil	20.00	-0.10
Crude Oil	20.00	-0.10

London commodities

Crude Oil	20.00	-0.10
Crude Oil	20.00	-0.10
Crude Oil	20.00	-0.10
Crude Oil	20.00	-0.10
Crude Oil	20.00	-0.10
Crude Oil	20.00	-0.10
Crude Oil	20.00	-0.10
Crude Oil	20.00	-0.10
Crude Oil	20.00	-0.10

Spot market metals (US)

Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10

London metal fixes

Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10

New York metal futures

Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10
Gold	385.00	-0.10

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading			Two-sided trading		
Name	Price	Change	Name	Price	Change
Alcoa	101.75	-1.25	Alcoa	101.75	-1.25
Alcoa	101.75	-1.25	Alcoa	101.75	-1.25
Alcoa	101.75	-1.25	Alcoa	101.75	-1.25
Alcoa	101.75	-1.25	Alcoa	101.75	-1.25
Alcoa	101.75	-1.25	Alcoa	101.75	-1.25
Alcoa	101.75	-1.25	Alcoa	101.75	-1.25
Alcoa	101.75	-1.25	Alcoa	101.75	-1.25
Alcoa	101.75	-1.25	Alcoa	101.75	-1.25
Alcoa	101.75	-1.25	Alcoa	101.75	-1.25

Market continues to fall on higher turnover

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ANDRE LUMBROSO



Two-Sided Index **Maof Index** **Karam Index**

THE market continued its downward slide yesterday as investors await Sunday's opening, the first trading day after today's expiration of November Maof Options. In the meantime, the big question is whether the Maof will remain below the 170 line which it crossed yesterday.

The Two-Sided Index declined by 1.65%, the Maof fell by 2% and the Karam dropped 1.9%. Yesterday's higher turnover - NIS 155 million - was seen as a positive development. Investors were drawn by the absolute level of the various indexes; the Two-Sided stands at 164.95, a little higher than its all-time low reached last July; the Karam stands at 142.1, 40% above the December 1991 level.

Maof speculation is still running at full steam. The index's 2% decline contributed 1.4% to the Two-Sided drop. From the first hour of Maof Options trading, when the index posted a 1% decline, it was clear the market was going to fall. Sizeable profits were again made on the Maof options. For example, the November 170 PUT rose from 108 to 150 with a high of 210, a rise of 39%. On the other hand, the November 170 CALL declined by 74%.

Maof shares declined sharply: Elbit 3%, First International Bank 1 and 5 2% each, Dead Sea 3.3%, and Property and Building 4%.

The rest of the Two-Sided did not fare much better: T-Bone Veal fell 7.7%, Meir Ezra was down 7%, and Hanal dropped 8.3%.

The general mood on the trading floor was not helped by the Knesset's passing of the Capital Gains Tax on market profits. The belief that new investors will stay out of the market as long as the law is in effect, however, is highly unlikely.

Mutual funds continued to post redemptions, and the public is certainly moving out of the market. An additional problem is that investors who had borrowed credit to buy mutual funds often are preferring to sell their funds at a loss rather than renewing the loans, even at particularly low interest rates. Since January, it is estimated that credit to mutual funds purchases has declined by more than NIS 2m. In the last two months, more than NIS 300m. of credit was repaid. It must be remembered that investors who sell their mutual funds to repay credit often have to pay a sizeable amount out of their own pocket. Losses of 20-30% are not unusual in addition to interest that is paid on the loan. It is no wonder investors are holding a grudge against the market.

The major question is in which direction will the market move today. In practical terms, will the Maof stay around 170? Maof arbitrageurs are unlikely to be interested in pushing down the index further: it would take a 6% decline to move the Maof below 160, thus bringing the November 160 PUT in the money. Therefore, their strategy is likely to prevent the index to rise above 170. There is wide expectation the market will rise sharply on Sunday, for two reasons. First, the expiration of Maof Options will be forgotten until the end of January. Second, the indexes are low which might bring some investors, particularly the provident funds, back into the market. Only time will tell.

FTSE drops 51 points

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Shares in London nosedived yesterday, wiping £8.5 billion off share values in the wake of a steep fall on Wall Street.

London's Financial Times Stock Exchange 100 share index closed 51.2 points down, taking the market barometer 1.66 percent lower to 3,027.5 after an afternoon low of 3,010.1.

Shares plunged on Europe's largest stock market in response to a 91.52 point drop in Wall Street's Dow Jones Industrial average to 3,677.99 on Tuesday and a further 21.5 point sell-off by the close of the London market.

Market turnover at 665 million shares was slightly better than last as investors switched into fixed income investments because of rising interest rates.

FRANKFURT - Germany's DAX share index plunged almost 2% in floor trading yesterday, mirroring a 2.4% drop on Wall Street as investors fled to debt from equities, dealers said.

The 30-share index ended the session 31.46 points lower to 2,033.31.

Post-bourse electronic trade saw the IBIS-indicated DAX index pare some losses to close at 2,040.05 but dealers were far from confident the market would hold steady over today's US Thanksgiving holiday.

Otherwise moderate activity was dominated by Deutsche Bank which dropped 2.89% to an intraday low of 722.50 marks but picked up to end the afternoon at 727.50.

The share's drop had been accelerated by news that Metallgesellschaft AG, of which Deutsche is a major shareholder, plans a capital cut next year.

Metallgesellschaft said it was aiming for a one-for-two capital cut and a capital increase to raise 600 million marks.

Metallgesellschaft shares were suspended from trading but will resume trading today. Traders predict shares could fall between 20 and 70 marks. Shares closed at 142 marks in post bourse dealings Tuesday.

PARIS - French shares finished lower, mirroring the falls in US and European stock markets, but late bargain-hunting and Wall Street's steadier tone lifted French stocks from their session lows, dealers said. The CAC-40 index closed down 18.32 at 1,893.09.

Dow bounces back

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks fell for a fifth straight session yesterday, although the Dow Jones industrial average ended down only slightly, as investors tried to make sense of the previous session's stock losses.

Stocks seceded throughout the day, with the Dow average down about 40 points at its worst. Stocks, however, started to improve after the bond market closed early, at about 2:00 p.m. ahead of today's Thanksgiving holiday.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks fell 3.36 points to 3,674.63.

Declining issues outnumbered advances by about 10 to 9 on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,143 up, 1,242 down and 557 unchanged.

Big Board volume totaled an extremely heavy 430.74 million shares as of 4 p.m. (2100 GMT), against 383.26 million in the previous session.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

MARK	STERLING	YEN	SP	FF
MARK	2.4436/46	154.51/53	2.0703/28	8.3337/42
YEN	1.2594/74	0.6477/73	1.2394/11	5.4273/21
SP	1.1792/04	0.4824/30	74.58/59	—
FF	0.2911/13	0.1191/82	16.33/44	0.2407/70

Hapoel Eilat goes down on disputed call

YOSEF SA'AR

A CONTROVERSIAL shot in the final seconds put Peristeri out of reach as the visiting Greek club beat Hapoel Eilat 87-82 in the fourth round of Korac Cup action last night.

With six seconds to play and Eilat down 83-82, Peristeri's Lance Berwald sank a shot with no time left on the 30-second shot clock. Eilat protested vehemently that time had expired, but the referee and the FIBA observer ruled that the ball was already in the air when the clock ran down.

Hapoel had one more possession and went to the free-throw line with five seconds left. Willie Sims, however, missed both tries.

The Greeks took the rebound, were fouled and Agelos Koronios converted the last two free throws of the game to seal the scoreline with a five-point victory.

The game was a nip-and-tuck affair for a large part of the 40 minutes. The hosts stayed even for most of the first half and were up by a one-point margin at halftime (41-40).

In the second half, however, Eilat found itself playing catchup, as the Greeks maintained a steady, if not precarious, five-to-seven-point edge for much of the remainder of the contest.

For the Greeks, Koronios was the game's high scorer with 29, including 11 of 12 from free-throw land. Berwald chipped in for 20 points and six rebounds. Yiannis Milonas had 18 and was on target with four of five three-pointers.

For Eilat, Andrew Kennedy had 26, followed by Ari Rosenberg's and Brian Rowsom's 22 apiece and Sims' 11.

Next week, Eilat hosts Spain's Caceres. The Spanish team lost by 22 points to Hapoel Galil Elyon in the third round of the Korac Cup only to bounce back at home to whip the northern by 40 points.

Mac TA needs Real grit against Madrid

JOEL GORDIN

After a two-week absence, Maccabi Tel Aviv returns to the European Club Championships war-torn night, going into battle against the formidable Real Madrid at Yad Eliyahu.

Maccabi has faltered in its first two games in the Sweet Sixteen, losing at home to PAOK Saloniki and away to Panathinaikos. Despite the home-court advantage, it is difficult to see the Israeli champions making a fresh start against Real Madrid.

Madrid, which is 21-7 in final pool play the past two seasons and undefeated this year, has a line-up which is virtually unchanged from last year, although there is a new coach - Zilko Pavlicic, who took Barcelona to the top of Europe last season.

The awesome foreign twosome is still Arvidas Sabonis and Joe Arlauskas. The point guards are the "two Joses," Jose and Antonio. The outside players are Jose Barikar, Pepe Carrillo and Ismael Santos, while the excellent center remains Antonio Martin.

Against this fearsome line-up stands a team still struggling to find itself. The two foreigners, Norris Coleman and Radislav Curcic, don't always live up to expectations, to say the least, while in the vital playmaker role Guy Goodes has trouble communicating with his teammates. Nadav Henefeld can't win the game with good defensive play alone. In any case, he has not completely recovered from an injury sustained while playing for the national team.

Motti Daniel is steady and exerts great enthusiasm - but he is not a game-winner. If Doron Jamchee has a bad night - Maccabi can be seriously embarrassed. At any rate, Maccabi takes the court tonight as a decided underdog. The game will be shown live on IFTV's Channel 1 from 20:30.

Bonds sued for paternity by woman linked to OJ case

LOS ANGELES (AP) - San Francisco Giants outfielder Barry Bonds has been sued for paternity by a woman linked several months ago to Al Cowling, the best friend of OJ Simpson.

Jennifer Peace, a 23-year-old porn actress, filed the lawsuit in Los Angeles Superior Court last month charging that Bonds is the father of her unborn child, according to her lawyer, Elliot Abelson.

"She's carrying a child, a baby boy, and she believes the father is Barry Bonds," Abelson said Tuesday. "When offered the opportunity to terminate the pregnancy, she refused because she wants to have the baby since she knows who the father is."

Abelson said Peace's claim will be substantiated by DNA testing after the child is born. He said Peace and Bonds met through a mutual friend in San Francisco last summer and had an affair.

Bonds, 30, who signed a six-year, \$43.75 million contract with the Giants before the 1993 season, is separated from his wife, Sun.

Peace, whose stage name is Devon Shire, was called to testify before a grand jury investigating Cowling's role in Simpson's Bronco flight.

She later met with prosecutors in the Simpson murder case. Cowling was arrested, but after a grand jury probe, the district attorney concluded there was insufficient evidence to charge him with a crime.

Göteborg tops Man Utd; Barcelona loses

GÖTEBORG (Reuters) - Jesper Blomqvist played the hero's role as IFK Göteborg beat Manchester United 3-1 last night to secure a surprise berth in the quarter-finals of the European Champions' League.

Midfielder Blomqvist, 20, whose participation had been doubtful due to a thigh injury, scored in the 11th minute and set up a penalty which Pontus Karmark netted 12 minutes before the end to seal the outcome.

The result means that the Swedish side, with eight points going into their final group game against Barcelona, have already secured one of Group A's two slots for the next round.

Galatasaray 2, Barcelona 1
Turkey's Galatasaray came from behind to topple mighty Barcelona. Romario gave Barcelona a 15th-minute lead, but a 72nd-minute penalty by Hakan Sukur and an 88th-minute effort from Arif Erdem gave the Turks victory.

Ajax 2, AC Milan 0
Ajax Amsterdam booked a place in the last eight in a Group D match. The Dutchmen, who won 2-0 in Milan in September, made a perfect start, taking the lead in only the second minute through Finnish striker Jari Litmanen.

Litmanen beat the offside trap and lashed a stunning volley past goalkeeper Sebastiano Rossi.

Ajax, three times European champions in the early 1970s, sealed victory when Milan captain Franco Baresi put through his own goal in the 65th minute.

Italian champions Milan must now win their final match against Salzburg on December 7 to qualify for the lucrative knock-out stages next spring.

Spartak Moscow 1, Dynamo Kiev 0
Spartak Moscow kept alive its slim chances of qualifying in a Group B match with a well-taken goal from Mukhsim Mukhamadiyev.

The young Tajik-born striker netted in the 52nd minute, breaking clear on the right of the area before firing in a fierce 10-meter drive from a narrow angle past Dynamo goalkeeper Oleksandr Shovkovsky.

Paris St Germain 1, Bayern 0
A piece of brilliance from substitute George Weah kept Paris St Germain's winning run intact in a Group B match. Weah picked up the ball 20 meters from goal, dribbled his way past three Bayern defenders and fired the ball into the top left-hand corner in the 81st minute.

The goal was the only highlight of a dull game which seemed to be moving towards a goalless draw. But it made sure Paris, which has already qualified for the quarter-finals, clinched its fifth victory in as many games.

AEK 1, Salzburg 3
Heino Pfeifferberger scored two first-half goals in three minutes to earn Casino Salzburg a Group D victory.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE

Group A
In Göteborg: IFK Göteborg (Sweden) 3, Manchester United (England) 1 (1-0). Scores: IFK Göteborg - Jesper Blomqvist (10th), Magnus Erlingmark (65th), Pontus Karmark (71st penalty); Manchester United - Mark Hughes (64th). Attendance: 36,350.

In Istanbul: Galatasaray (Turkey) 2, Barcelona (Spain) 1 (0-1). Scores: Galatasaray - Hakan Sukur (penalty, 72nd), Arif Erdem (88th); Barcelona - Romario (15th).

Group B
In Moscow: Spartak Moscow (Russia) 1, Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine) 0 (Halftime 0-0). Scores: Spartak Moscow - Mukhsim Mukhamadiyev (52nd minute).

In Munich: Bayern Munich (Germany) 0, Paris St Germain (France) 1 (0-0). Scores: George Weah (81st). Attendance: 35,000.

Group C
In Bucharest: Steaua Bucharest (Romania) 1, Anderlecht (Belgium) 1 (0-1). Scores: Steaua Bucharest - Anton Dobos (52nd); Anderlecht - Johnny Bosman (43rd).

In Lisbon: Benfica (Portugal) 2, Hajduk Split (Croatia) 1 (1-0). Scores: Benfica - Isaias Soares (53rd), Joao Pinto (76th); Hajduk - Stjepan Andrijašević (72nd).

Group D
In Trieste: AC Milan (Italy) 0, Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands) 2 (0-1). Scores: Ajax - Jari Litmanen (2nd), Franco Baresi (55th).

In Athens: AEK Athens (Greece) 1, Casino Salzburg (Austria) 3 (Halftime 1-2). Scores: AEK - Michalis Vlachos (58th); Salzburg - Heino Pfeifferberger (6th, 8th, 89th), Ralph Hasenhuttl (76th).

Mac TA dishes out permanent ban for Mizrahi

ORI LEWIS

ALON Mizrahi's short spell at Maccabi Tel Aviv came to a permanent end yesterday after only five months at the club.

The National League's leading goal scorer over the last three seasons, who has managed only one league strike since moving from Maccabi Haifa in the off-season, was fined an unprecedented \$8,000 by Maccabi Tel Aviv and was told he would not play for it again.

The punishment was meted out by the Tel Aviv club's disciplinary committee after several acrimonious incidents involving Mizrahi and team coach Avraham Grant.

Mizrahi had been unhappy with Grant's coaching methods at the club and had openly criticized him and his fellow players.

The club, in turn, stated that there is "no chemistry" between it and the disgruntled player. Maccabi said that they will be trying to sell off the striker, whose salary is a reported \$150,000 a year, and would review any offers received from other clubs immediately.

His former club, Maccabi Haifa, is said to be interested, although, according to IFA regulations, he is ineligible to play for them this season.

If the Haifa club buys Mizrahi back, it will have to loan him to another club until next season.

Chinese swim champion banned for two years

LAUSANNE (AP) - World champion Chinese swimmer Yang Aihua was banned for two years yesterday for failing a drug test, the international swimming federation FINA said.

The federation confirmed that Yang tested positive for an excessive level of testosterone in a random sampling September 30 which she underwent before the Asian Games in Hiroshima.

FINA's medical commission chairman had disclosed the positive finding last week but the federation had withheld final confirmation due to what it called "a delay in the procedure in the analyses of the sample."

Yang won the women's 400-meter freestyle at the world championships in Rome in September. She is the fifth Chinese swimmer to fail a drug test since last year.

The suspension will last through September 29, 1996, keeping Yang out of the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

Chinese officials have repeatedly denied widespread allegations of systematic drug use by their women swimmers, who won 12 of 16 titles in Rome and set five world records.

FINA secretary Gunmar Werner said Yang's positive test should not cast a doubt over the whole Chinese program.

"We have no reason to believe that the Chinese federation is behind this," he said. "It might be from some coach."

FIA confirms Schumacher's title

PARIS (AP) - Formula One officials have confirmed Michael Schumacher as the 1994 world champion despite a controversial collision in the season's last race.

Now they want to make sure future championships aren't decided the same way.

After three crashes in the last five years helped to decide the world champion, the International Automobile Federation said yesterday it was studying novel options to resolve future cases in which a collision decides the title.

The options include: having the drivers continue the race in spare cars or holding a run-off immediately after the race.

FIA spokesman Francesco Lon-

ganesi said any changes would have to go through the regular procedure concerning rules in the sport.

The next World Council meeting is scheduled for December 9 when Schumacher will be formally presented with the world title.

Schumacher's Benetton-Ford swerved in front of Hill's Williams-Renault on the 36th lap of the season-ending Australian Grand Prix, crippling both cars and giving Schumacher the 1994 title by one point over the Briton.

Though Hill and the Williams team downplayed the incident and did not lodge a formal protest, Britain's tabloid press accused Schumacher of deliberately hitting

Hill to preserve his title. There was speculation that FIA, after reviewing the evidence, could strip the German of the title.

But FIA said yesterday there was insufficient evidence to justify summoning either driver to a hearing before the World Sport Motor Council.

"The matter is therefore closed and no further action will be taken," FIA said.

In 1989 and 1990 crashes at the Japanese Grand Prix, the next-to-last race of the season, determined the title between the late Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost. France's Prost clinched the title in 1989 with Senna coming from behind to win the following year.

Portland ends Rockets' streak

HOUSTON (AP) - The Rockets' 23-game November winning streak - and nine-game win streak to start the season - ended when Clyde Drexler returned to the Portland lineup and led the Trail Blazers to a 102-94 victory Tuesday night.

Drexler, who missed two games with an ankle injury, scored 30 points. Cliff Robinson added 29 points for the Trail Blazers, who lost all four games to the Rockets last season.

Houston, 9-1 this season, got 27 points from Hakeem Olajuwon and 20 from Vernon Maxwell. The loss was the first for the Rockets in the month of November since a 108-99 setback to the Utah Jazz on November 28, 1992.

Last season, the Rockets were 14-0 in November and won their first game in December before experiencing defeat.

On Tuesday night, the Trail Blazers outscored the Rockets 15-9 over the final 5:21 as Houston's shooting went cold. Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich was ejected with 1:45 to play after screaming at referee Terry Durham.

Cavaliers 112, Timberwolves 79
Seven Cleveland players were in double figures, and the host Cavaliers collected 37 points from turnovers while handing Minnesota its worst loss this season.

Mark Price led Cleveland with 17 points, and Tony Campbell had 16. Bobby Phills and Chris Mills scored 15 each.

The Timberwolves, losers in nine of their 10 games, got 14 points, but only three rebounds, from Christian Laettner. Eight of Minnesota losses have been by double-figure margins.

Donyell Marshall added 13 points for visiting Minnesota, a 115-85 loss to Houston on November 5.

Hawks 102, 76ers 99
Stacey Augmon scored 23 points, including a short jumper with 11 seconds to play as Atlanta kept Philadelphia winless on the road.

The loss was the fourth in a row on the road for the 76ers. The streak is seven dating to last season. Atlanta won for the third time in 10 games.

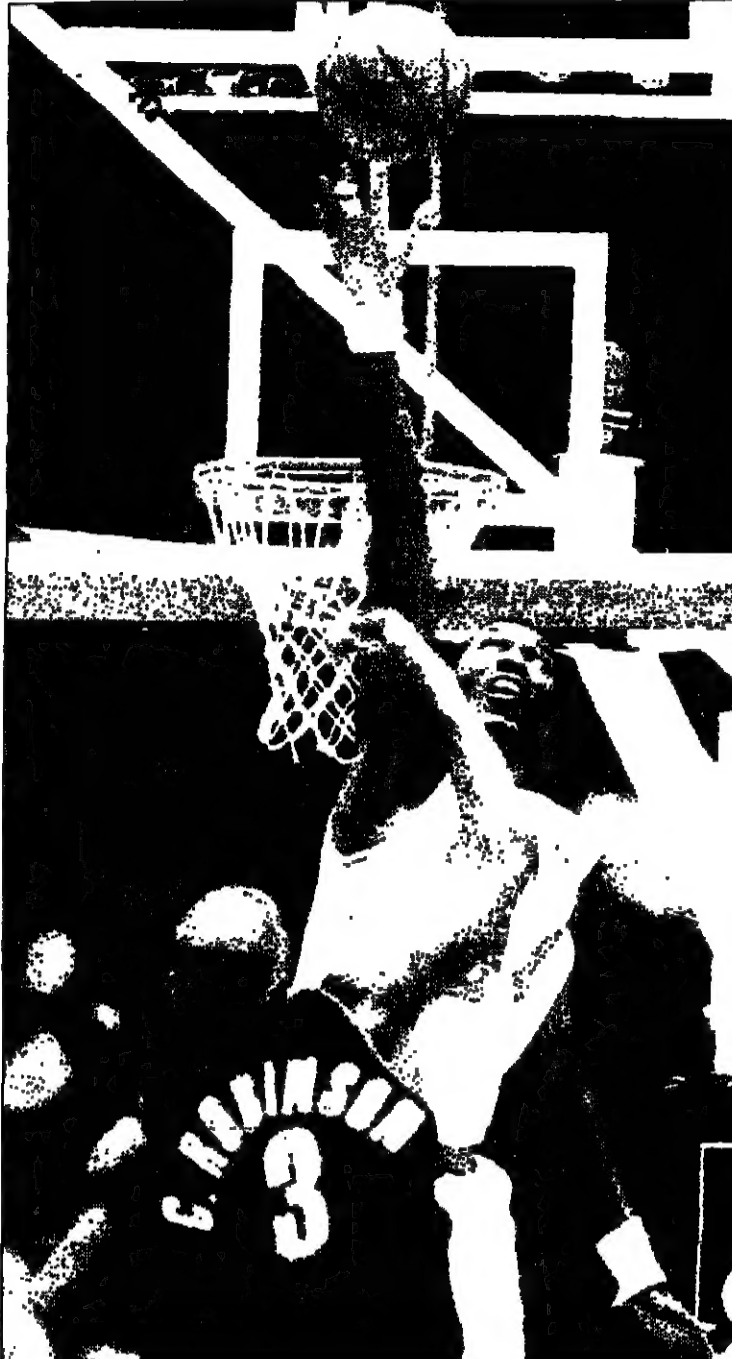
Philadelphia led 98-97 after Willie Burton hit a layup for the last of his 22 points with 1:40 to play. Grant Long tied the score with a free throw with 1:17 left and Steve Smith gave the Hawks the lead for good with two free throws with 46 seconds to play after a Philadelphia turnover.

Mookie Blaylock added 15 points and 11 assists for Atlanta. Shawn Bradley had 16 points and 10 rebounds for Philadelphia.

Bucks 116, Celtics 94
Todd Day had 23 points and Vin Baker 20 as visiting Milwaukee used a strong second half to beat Boston's three-game winning streak.

Baker, playing at the Hartford Civic Center for the first time since he attended the University of Hartford, scored 14 points in the second half. Glenn Robinson added 17 points and Eric Murdock, activated Monday after missing seven games with an eye injury, came off the bench to score 15.

Rick Fox, who missed the past two games with a hip injury, returned to the lineup and paced the Celtics with 16 points, all in the second half. Dino Radja added 15. Dominique Wilkins, who played with his right leg taped up



HIGH AND MIGHTY - Rockets' Hakeem Olajuwon reaches to block a layup by Trail Blazers' Cliff Robinson. (AP)

after straining his hamstring in the first quarter, scored 14.

The Bucks trailed 49-46 at the half, but outscored the Celtics 31-12 in the first nine minutes of the third quarter.

Hornets 102, Warriors 98
Henry Hawkins scored seven of his 18 points in a decisive fourth-quarter stretch, helping Charlotte hold off visiting Golden State.

The Warriors were trying to set a team record for consecutive road victories at the start of the season. Charlotte tried to help by whistling for four technical fouls - two in the fourth quarter for illegal defense and a third in that period on the bench.

Golden State literally gave away its shot at five straight road wins, committing 20 turnovers. Two of those came in the last two minutes, and the Warriors allowed the Hornets to open a small advantage that led to the victory.

Alonzo Mourning led Charlotte with 21 points and 12 rebounds. Larry Johnson had 19 points and Muggsy Bogues 13 points and 11 assists.

Latrell Sprewell finished with 30 points to lead Golden State.

Bulls 105, Clippers 93
Ron Harper scored 21 points against his former teammates, and visiting Chicago ran off 18 straight in a decisive fourth-quarter rally.

The Clippers (0-10) remained the NBA's only winless team after squandering a fourth-quarter lead for the second straight game. They led by

eight points in the third quarter and were ahead 82-78 heading into the final 12 minutes.

Toni Kukoc's layup tied the game at 82-82. His next basket began the Bulls' 18-point run, including five by Harper, for a 100-85 lead with 3:52 to play.

Scottie Pippen added 17 points and 10 assists for the Bulls, who have a 10-game winning streak against the Clippers. Rookie Lamond Murray scored 16 points for Los Angeles.

SuperSonics 104, Nets 97
Gary Payton scored 26 points and made consecutive layups during a late 6-0 Seattle run that put the host SuperSonics ahead to stay.

Shawn Kemp added 22 points and pulled down 17 rebounds for Seattle. He also sealed the victory by making two free throws with 23 seconds left.

The Nets set a franchise record by hitting 11 three-pointers, including three apiece by Chris Morris and Kevin Edwards.

Derrick Coleman scored 19 points and pulled down 11 rebounds for New Jersey. But Kenny Anderson netted only three points, and did not score until less than three minutes remained.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	1	3	.250	-
New York	0	4	.000	.5
Washington	0	4	.000	.5
Boston	0	4	.000	.5
Brooklyn	0	4	.000	.5
Philadelphia	0	4	.000	.5
Miami	0	4	.000	.5

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Indiana	0	3	.000	-
Milwaukee	0	3	.000	-
Chicago	0	3	.000	-
Cleveland	0	4	.000	.5
Detroit	0	4	.000	.5
Charlotte	0	4	.000	.5
Atlanta	0	4	.000	.5

TUESDAY'S RESULTS:

Milwaukee 116, Boston 94
Atlanta 102, Philadelphia 99
Cleveland 112, Minnesota 79
Portland 102, Houston 94
Seattle 104, New Jersey 97
Chicago 105, LA Clippers 93

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GENERAL

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JOEL GORDIN

conditions in December 1944.

About 1,500 spectators, including Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and five ambassadors, are scheduled to attend. Afterwards, torches will be carried in relays by members of the Maccabi youth organizations to separate ceremonies throughout the country. The main route will be from Modi'in to Jerusalem where President Weiz-

man will receive the torch at his residence on Monday. Torches will also be taken to the Knesset, IDF bases and all the main cities and development towns.

A peace torch, lit by Rabin, will be taken to the border crossings with Jordan. Torches will also be taken to countries in four continents. Former Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball captain Tal Brody will take part at the Moscow ceremony.

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ABROAD

LONDON - Flats

Rabin likely to approve non-kosher meat ban

SHAS is likely to get the meat import bill amended to outlaw the import of any type of non-kosher meat product, according to a senior source in the Prime Minister's Office.

This is Shas's latest precondition for going back into the coalition, following an Industry and Trade Ministry decision to allow the import of non-frozen, non-kosher meat products.

Nevertheless, the concession which Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will reportedly be willing to make, might not be enough. The High Court is due to rule today on the legality of the deal Rabin struck with Shas assuring it that the government will sponsor special legislation to circumvent the High Court when Shas deems it to have deviated from the status quo on religious affairs. Labor's entire relationship with Shas hinges on

SARAH HONIG

the court's decision.

Shas strongman Aryeh Deri has already warned that "if the court throws out the agreement between Labor and Shas, then we have nothing to go back to the government for. Labor says it needs us to lead a Jewish majority to its peace process, but we judge that peace process worthless if it does not safeguard the Jewish character of this country. We see no reason to help the extreme left realize its agenda so it can be emboldened to trample everything still Jewish in this state."

Deri further warned Labor that if its promises do not stand up in court, then Shas "will get off the political fence and actively join the opposition."

Some Labor sources said contacts have already been made with

Shas regarding an alternative agreement, should the court throw out the one now before it. The sources hinted the alternative will couch the same promises in softer, more acceptable phraseology. Deri, however, maintains that his party "will not accept watered-down substitutes."

Rabin, who is to return from the US this weekend, is expected to tell Shas that he is ready to accept its latest condition, and will see to it that the government will sponsor the new legislation and speed it through the Knesset to preempt the non-kosher meat imports which can begin to take place on January 1.

The source in the Prime Minister's Office said that it is clear that Rabin will encounter stiff opposition from Meretz, but he is "confident he can get Meretz to yield after letting off some steam."



Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer meets with Beduin leaders yesterday. From left are Sheikh Ahmed Mussa Abu Obaidan, a Jordanian visiting Beduin here; Sheikh Abu Hamid, of Kesef; and Sheikh Ibrahim Amur, of Kesef. (Michael Hadari)

Court OKs sealing of kidnappers' homes

THE army can seal the houses of three terrorists involved in kidnapping Cpl. Nahshon Wachman, the High Court of Justice ruled yesterday.

Two of the houses, belonging to the Natshe and Bader families, house more than one nuclear family, so only that portion used by the terrorists' immediate families will be sealed. The third, belonging to the Ya'amar family, will be completely sealed, since no other family lives there.

All three of the houses are in Jerusalem. In their ruling, Justices Dalia Dorner, Dov Levine, and Zvi Tal relied largely on last week's ruling by four justices that it was permissible to destroy the house of the Tel Aviv

EVELYN GORDON

bomb bomber.

The recent wave of suicide terror by the Hamas and Islamic Jihad has made it necessary for the state to take more stringent deterrent measures, the justices wrote, and the court is not in a position to assert that sealing or destroying houses is ineffective against suicide terrorism when all the security forces say otherwise.

The justices flatly rejected the families' claim that Hamas had intended to release Wachman even if its demands were not met. Not only was there no evidence for this, they said, but the security forces' investigation indicated, the op-

posite: that the kidnapping had been implemented by suicide terrorists, who had then slain the bound Wachman.

They also rejected the petitioners' claim that sealing their houses was discriminatory, since Hebron massacre Baruch Goldstein's house had not been sealed. The Shamgar Commission had found no evidence to indicate that Goldstein was part of a terrorist organization, the justices said, so there was no need for deterrence in this case. In contrast, Hamas had claimed responsibility for Wachman's kidnapping and threatened additional terrorism.

In light of the circumstances, the justices concluded, sealing the houses was not a punishment too harsh for the crime.

Driver, worker charged with negligence in cement mixer tragedy

THE driver of the cement mixer that slipped and crushed four members of the Dakwar family in Haifa on Monday night and the worker who was directing him were each released on NIS 10,000 bail yesterday.

"It's hard to express the pain felt all over following the terrible tragedy," Haifa Magistrate's Court Judge Avi Haber said before releasing driver Yaron Ya'acov, 22, of Kiryat Ata, and Jassan Mohammed Saleman, 30, of Nazareth, who was directing him.

Police charged the two with causing death by negligence in the incident, in which the cement mixer was working on an extension of the Dakwar family's home before it slipped while backing up.

Lawyers for the two men denied their clients were responsible for what happened, with Ya'acov's attorney claiming he had remained inside the cement mixer in an attempt to turn it upright and save the

family, despite danger to himself. Suleiman's lawyer argued that his client had not been responsible for the cement mixer's flipping over, and could have done nothing to prevent it.

Police said the investigation is still at its initial stages, and did not object to releasing the two on bail. Suleiman's lawyer said his client "is torn by anger and pain, because this terrible tragedy unfolded before his eyes, where only minutes before he was playing with the little girl who died."

Thousands attended the funeral of the four victims yesterday. Lea Dakwar, 60, the mother of lawyer Imad Dakwar, his wife, Jimalah, 32, and his children Basel, 8, and Ulah, 4, were buried in the Christian cemetery in Tashiba in the Western Galilee. Among those attending the funeral were judges, MKs, many lawyers and other public figures. (Itim)

Chemists, biologists call off strike

JUDY SIEGEL

A STRIKE by 2,000 Kapat Holim Clalit biochemists and microbiologists, due to begin yesterday morning and then postponed to begin today, was canceled, as management agreed not to implement "for the time being" its plan to close dozens of hospital and community clinic labs.

The decision, made possible by the mediation of Histadrut trade union chief MK Amir Peretz, is regarded as only temporary. The dispute over the labs is likely to

emerge again in January, when the national health insurance system is inaugurated.

Management is eager to "unite" labs in order to make the most use of advanced computerized equipment that carries out thousands of tests on samples simultaneously and accurately, without human contact. But it also knows that a strike will paralyze its hospitals and clinics, angering members who may be able to switch to any other public health fund.

Druse council heads postpone protests

DAVID RUDGE

DRUSE and Circassian local council leaders have temporarily suspended their strike until the beginning of December, pending a response from Finance Minister Avraham Shohat to their demands for increased municipal development budgets.

Yusef Kabalan, head of the Beit Jann local council in the Galilee, said that although they had not dismantled their protest tent opposite the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem, all the councils were functioning normally.

"We agreed, at the minister's request, to a two-week break to allow him time to check the possi-

bility of allocating additional funds for the councils' development budgets," said Kabalan.

The council heads went on strike at the beginning of the month to press for the implementation of the previous government's promise, made in May 1991, to increase the regular and development budgets of their councils and bring them in line with those of Jewish development towns.

"If by the deadline agreed, December 3, we do not receive the kind of answer we are looking for, the protests will resume," Kabalan added.

KNESSET BRIEFS

Government backs Hanegbi's Jerusalem bill

The Ministerial Committee on Legislation yesterday decided to support Tsahi Hanegbi's (Likud) private members bill designed to preserve Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem. The bill seeks to ensure that the PLO keep the pledge it made in the Cairo Agreements not to establish Palestinian Authority offices in Jerusalem or to engage in governmental activity there. Its sole difference with a similar government bill is that the police minister is charged with enforcing this law and drawing up the necessary regulations.

Azran not guilty of conflict of interest

Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair has rejected an official Shas complaint that Yosef Azran is guilty of a conflict of interest by serving simultaneously as Sephardic chief rabbi of Rishon LeZion and as an MK. The complaint was part of Shas's campaign to force Azran to leave the Knesset and return his mandate to the party.

Treasury agrees to compensate farmers

The Treasury has agreed to consider a proposal to compensate farmers for surplus production to prevent recurrences of this year's skyrocketing tomato prices. The proposal calls for establishing a NIS 25 million fund, including NIS 10m. from the vegetable growers' board and NIS 15m. from the state budget.

New plan to secure schools

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has ordered security officials to draw up a new plan to guard all schools in the country, Avraham Herschson (Likud) said. Herschson wrote Rabin last month listing the deficiencies in the present arrangements. Now he has received a letter from Cmdr. Yisrael Sadan, Police Ministry operations head, who told him he had been instructed by Rabin to draw up a new plan.

A-Sanaa: Letter confirms PA, Hamas deal

Taleb a-Sanaa (DAP) has distributed a letter in Arabic from the Palestinian Authority, purporting to confirm agreements between the PA, Hamas and Islamic Jihad reached through the mediation by an Israeli Arab delegation of which he was a member. A-Sanaa said the letter proved that reports claiming he had been sharply criticized for publishing the agreements prematurely were false.

Arafat said to seek end of Israel

Hanan Porat (NRP) charged yesterday that Yasser Arafat has called for the continuation of the armed struggle against Israel and its eventual destruction. Porat said the statements came in a letter sent by Arafat to the Palestinian rejectionist groups and reprinted in the Egyptian newspaper *El-Hariri*.

Bibi calls for religious labor federation

Yigal Bibi (NRP) has called for an end to the 70-year alliance between Hapoel Hamizrachi and the Histadrut and the creation of an independent federation of labor for national religious workers. Bibi charged that Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon was disowning the religious workers. Ramon's latest move is to establish a board of directors for Kapat Holim Clalit without any Hapoel Hamizrachi representation, said Bibi. Dan Izenberg

Russian-speaking academic olim tending to stick together

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE intelligentsia among recent immigrants from the former Soviet Union has tended toward "ghettoization" far more than that in previous aliyah waves, a Hebrew University sociologist said yesterday.

The phenomenon is more marked even than in the German aliyah of the 1930s, particularly since it carried over to the second generation, Prof. Moshe Lissak told a Hebrew University conference on the absorption of the latest aliyah wave. It is somewhat reminiscent of the White Russians who went to Europe, he said, or the observant Jews who emigrated to America.

The Russian-speaking intelligentsia here continue to maintain dialogue with the cultural elites in Moscow and Kiev, Lissak said.

Most salient, he said, is the fact that members of the intelligentsia here are trying to give ideological legitimacy to the phenomenon. They regard Israeli culture as "Levanine," and this attitude is prevalent among immigrant youth.

The isolationist approach finds expression in the large number of institutions, organizations, supplementary educational frameworks, and clubs set up by the olim. He noted the establishment of 50-60 Russian-language newspapers and journals over the past five years.

An indirect explanation for this phenomenon was offered by Jewish history Prof. Mordechai Alshuler who said the new immigrants are "non-Jewish Jews."

Only a small minority of the Jews in the CIS had a Jewish identity, he said, particularly the "professional Jews" who were involved in formal institutions. For most of the silent majority, any connection with Hebrew and Judaism came only when they decided to begin preparing for aliyah.

Since in the various republics, nationality was still noted on ID cards, many CIS Jews and half-Jews were interested in registering as Jews, Alshuler said. This made emigration a more viable option.

There were large regional differences, he pointed out, noting that Russian Jews were the most "russified," whereas in the Ukraine, for example, there was a movement away from Ukrainian nationalism.

Knesset unit wants funding for conversion classes

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE Knesset Aliya Committee yesterday called on the Religious Affairs Ministry to transfer funds to the Chief Rabbinate for the operation of ulpanim for conversion to Judaism.

The ulpanim have not been functioning for months, and the rabbinate says this is because of lack of funds.

However, while the rabbinate is reportedly interested in operating the ulpanim, certain ministry officials oppose the conversion of the immigrants, and therefore have an

interest in holding up funds, a source said. Meanwhile, two ulpanim, run by Rabbi Menachem Waldman and Tsefania Drori, are continuing to operate on a voluntary basis.

Some 300 immigrants, most of them from the CIS, have completed their studies, but have not been able to undergo conversion because of the strike of rabbinical tribunals, the committee was told. Another 200 have begun studying and a similar number are registered for when courses resume.

Reports: 200,000 battered women here

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

SOME 200,000 Israeli women are beaten or otherwise mistreated by their husbands in front of their children, according to reports by the Histadrut Parliament's Welfare Committee, meeting this week to discuss domestic violence.

Committee Chairperson Muli Oren pointed out that 17 women have been murdered this year by their husbands. In 1992, 21 women were murdered by their husbands, boyfriends, former husbands or sons, and the same number was murdered in 1993, she noted.

The committee urged the Histadrut leadership to take urgent action to help women who are victims of domestic violence, mainly by bringing to the women's attention the fact that they can change their situation.

The Histadrut must include in its basket of services the means to enable battered women to escape their predicament, and must provide them with names and addresses of where to turn to for help and shelter, the committee decided.

"It is unthinkable that women are forced to leave their homes to go to shelters for battered wives, while the battering husband stays living comfortably at home," Oren said.

She noted that some 60% of the women who were beaten up by their spouses and had turned to Na'amnat for help never dared go to the police to lodge a complaint against the assailant. "Witnessing this violence, which is the lot of some 200,000 women in Israel, is harmful to children of the family, who must live and grow up in the shadow of violence and fear," she said.

Jew who married in church wants wife to be declared new immigrant

HAIM SHAPIRO

A JEWISH man and non-Jewish woman who were married by a minister in a church abroad yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice to be registered as married and for the wife to be recognized as a new immigrant.

Haim Ze'evi met Colleen Laimore, an American non-Jew, during a visit to the US. The two decided to marry and the wedding was performed by a friend of the bride, a minister. However, the couple maintain, the minister was authorized by the state of Missouri to perform marriages, and the

wedding was a civil marriage, which took place in the church library.

After several months during which the Interior Ministry did not return Ze'evi's identity card or answer their queries, the couple went to the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, which is representing them before the High Court. Finally Ze'evi was told that by marrying in a church he had converted, and thus he is not considered a Jew and his wife could not be considered an immigrant according to the Law of Return.

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PORTS AND RAILWAYS AUTHORITY Head Office

TENDER NO. 757/90/01

- The Ports and Railways Authority, Israel (P.R.A.), in accordance with its obligations with regard to selective tendering procedures under the International Agreement on Government Procurement, GATT, wishes to obtain quotations for: Renovation of the Israel Railways fleet of Diesel Electric Locomotives (hereinafter "the Works").
- The works include, inter alia:
 - The supply of new locomotives, and/or
 - The supply of remanufactured locomotives, or a unit exchange basis (trade-in) and/or
 - Remanufacturing/upgrading of P.R.A.'s locomotives and/or
 - The supply of Twelve EPRON Booster Units (TEBU).
 All as specified in the tender documents.
- Preconditions for participation in the tender:
 - Possession of an ISO 9000/9002 certificate, or a quality control audit certificate, something to other, similar standards, or confirmation from a local authority, attesting that procedures for the receipt of such a certificate have been initiated.
 - Having resources and working procedures, adequate for the performance of the Works, in compliance with the U.I.C. or A.R. standards.
 - Proven experience of at least 10 years, in the manufacture and/or renovation of locomotives.
- If the bidder(s) plans to be assisted by sub-contractors, he must provide a detailed list of the sub-contractors.
- The bidder has active B & D, design and manufacturing departments and facilities.
- The tender documentation is available on payment of NIS 3510, including VAT (not refundable), to the order of the P.R.A., submitted to the address below.
- The P.R.A. is not obligated to accept the lowest or any other proposal.
- The P.R.A. reserves the right to conduct negotiations with bidder(s) found to be suitable.
- The P.R.A. reserves the right to sign agreements with more than one bidder.
- The P.R.A. reserves the right to reduce the volume of the Works, even prior to the signing of a contract, if the requirements of the P.R.A. change, or if the proposals exceed the authorized budget. In such a case, the contract will be based on the proposed price per unit.
- The last date for submitting proposals is February 15, 1995, at 1500 hours.
- The address for requesting the tender documentation, and for submitting proposals is: Ports and Railways Authority - Israel
Purchasing Division
74 Petah Tikva Road
11th floor, Room 1125
Tel Aviv 61201, Israel